



BI ANNUAL NEWSLETTER

TMNP MPA benefits from a new Shark Spotter App

Shark Spotters has launched its latest innovation in sustainable shark safety solutions with the introduction of a new mobile app for swimmers and surfers, “Be Shark Smart” for selected TMNP MPA Shark Spotter monitored beaches. This unique app provides MPA users with current and accurate shark safety information so that beach users can make informed decisions about shark risk before arriving at a Shark Spotter monitored beach.

Beaches covered by the program can be checked by observing the Shark Spotters flag and notice boards when arriving at a beach to check the latest shark sightings and spotting conditions. There are certain limitations with this scenario because, what if you have to travel from far to get to your favorite surf spot, only to see upon your arrival that the red flag is flying, indicating a high shark alert? Or what if you want to know whether the shark exclusion barrier has been deployed in Fish Hoek before you venture down to the beach? It was scenarios like these that prompted the development of this mobile app to provide real-time information to render an efficient and effective service to beach users.

The Shark Spotter app provides water users with the latest shark safety information at the monitored beaches, including which flag is currently flying and why, the latest shark sightings at that beach, water temperature, lunar phase and whether the shark exclusion barrier in Fish Hoek has been deployed or not.

All information is updated by the spotters on duty in real time so users can be assured that they always have the most current information to make a personal assessment about shark risk when entering the water. The app provides users with safety tips to reduce the risk of encountering a shark, information about shark activity in Cape Town and the role of the Shark Spotters program in managing our beaches.

Shark Spotters believe that education and awareness is key to a successful shark safety strategy, and that the development of this app will assist in providing factual, accurate, up to date information about sharks and shark safety to the public so that an informed decision can be made when entering the ocean and this will assist in reducing the number of

shark human interactions.

The app provides other useful information like weather conditions, marine animal activity in the area (whales, seals, dolphins, sunfish etc), details of amenities on the beaches, as well as a short surf video – an invaluable tool for those isolated surf spots covered by the program that do not have web-cams operating! All these features are included in the initial version of the app, and it is hoped that after receiving feedback from the users we will be able to update the Shark Spotters app into an invaluable beach safety and information tool for Cape Town’s ocean users.

Shark Spotters are very grateful to all the individuals and organizations that contributed to making this app a reality which they are able to provide free of charge to our Cape Town ocean users

To download the app users must search “Shark Spotters” in the iStore (Apple) or PlayStore (Android).

Over 6,250 people have downloaded the app since its launch.

FIVE FAST FACTS ABOUT GREAT WHITE SHARKS IN FALSE BAY

1. False Bay has the second largest aggregation of white sharks in the world
2. During winter, white sharks congregate at Seal Island where they feed on young seal pups.
3. During summer months, as the water warms up, white sharks move into the inshore area, following fish and other prey species.
4. Since the program began in 2004, Shark Spotter has recorded over 2,050 shark sightings at its operating beaches
5. The Shark Spotters research program has identified more than 450 individual white sharks in False Bay using their unique dorsal “fin-prints”.

20% of South Africa's coastline is protected as MPA's.

South Africa has a coastline of approximately 2 800 Kilometres.

South Africa has approximately 3 000 ship wrecks off its coast.

Man on the move update

Remember Mr Thembani Namba the young De Hoop Reserve Groen Sabela intern that aided Mr Lwazi Ngewu with his career endeavours. Well I am pleased to inform you that he has after many fruitless applications finally found employment with SANParks at the Table Mountain National Park as a Park Field Ranger and from there he has moved to the Goukama Nature Reserve and MPA with CapeNature.

We will keep following this young man as his career path develops and wish him all the best with all his future career ambitions.



Table Mountain National Park MPA – Vessel access in the MPA.

The Table Mountain National Park Marine Protected Area (TMNP MPA) is approximately a 1000km² of ocean MPA that abuts the Table Mountain National Park and borders the City of Cape Town.

It requires special skills to manage this MPA which requires MPA staff to work closely with all governance role players including the City of Cape Town, SAPS, SA Navy, National and Provincial Government, Coastal Communities, Civil Society, MPA user groups and the MPA users.

The TMNP MPA staff deals with boat users from the recreational and commercial sectors and they have to ensure compliance and reduce user conflict in the three active harbours situated at:

1. Kalk Bay
2. Simons Town and
3. Hout Bay

The 6 slipways where recreational and commercial small crafts can launch within the MPA boundaries are:

1. Simons Town
2. Millers Point
3. Buffels Bay in Cape Point
4. Witsands
5. Kommetjie and
6. Hout Bay harbour

The TMNP MPA works closely with DEA, DAFF, SAPS and CoCT Marine Unit to ensure compliance at these entry points and are often seen working on holidays and weekends to ensure MPA users are compliant with the relevant MPA Regulations and bag limits.

South Africa's Marine Protected Areas Network

0, 5% of South Africa's Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) is currently zoned as Marine Protected Areas (MPA's). As a country we have 24 Gazetted MPA's and they are managed by various National, Provincial and Municipal Management Authorities. The list of Management Authorities and the MPA's they manage are as follows;

A. National Management Agency SANParks manages the following MPA's;

West Coast National Park MPA is made up of 5 x MPA's (1 to 5) namely;

1. Sixteen Mile Beach MPA
2. Langebaan Lagoon MPA
3. Marcus Island MPA
4. Jutten Island MPA
5. Malgas Island MPA
6. Table Mountain National Park MPA
7. Tsitsikama MPA
8. Bird Island MPA

B. Provincial Management Agency CapeNature manages the following 6 x MPA's;

9. De Hoop MPA
10. Betty's Bay MPA
11. Stilbaai MPA
12. Goukama MPA
13. Robberg MPA
14. Rocherpan MPA

C. DEA manages the Mid Ocean MPA;

15. Prince Edward Island MPA

Provincial Management Agency Eastern Cape Parks and Tourism Agency (ECPTA) manages the following 4 x MPA's;

16. Dwesa Cwebe MPA
17. Pondoland MPA
18. Hluleka MPA
19. Amathole MPA

Provincial Management Agency Ezemvelo KZN Wildlife manages the following 2x MPA's;

20. Trafalgar MPA
21. Aliwal Shoal MPA

Ezemvelo KZN Wildlife has a Management Agreement with the Isimangaliso Authority to manage the following MPA;

22. Isimangaliso Wetland Park

C. Municipal Management Agency City of Cape Town manages the following MPA;

23. Helderberg MPA

Municipal Management Agency Nelson Mandela Bay Municipality manages the following MPA;

24. Sardinia Bay MPA

RECREATIONAL FISHERY FACTS – WWF Fishery Facts and Trends South Africa 2011

- In 2011 it was estimated that over 500 000 people participate in South Africa's Recreational Fishery. In 2016 the WWFSA Publication Oceans Facts and Futures – Valuing South Africa's Ocean Economy cited a recreational fishery of an estimated 870 000 Recreational Anglers.
- The value of the recreational fishery was estimated to be ZAR 2.3 Billion in 2003 and was considered to be ZAR 3 Billion in 2011.
- The total fish caught by recreational fishers was estimated to be 5 600 Tons in 2003 with the commercial catch of line fish being estimated at 16 000 Ton.

Please visit the MPA Forum website at <http://mpaforum.org.za/> and familiarize yourself with South Africa's MPA's and view all the MPA's and its locations. Please forward any suggestions and MPA news to Radams@wwf.org.za