



MARINE PROTECTED AREAS

Protect an important food source

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

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

>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.

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



Photo: Dennis King



Photo: Judy Mann

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

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



INCORPORATING



70 years of helping people to care for our ocean