



**SOUTH AFRICAN DEEP-SEA
TRAWLING INDUSTRY
ASSOCIATION**

Ring Fencing The Trawl Grounds

MARINE STEWARDSHIP COUNCIL CERTIFICATION AND “RING FENCING” OF THE TRAWL GROUNDS

What is the Marine Stewardship Council (MSC)

The MSC was jointly established by the World Wildlife Fund (WWF) and Unilever in 1997 in response to the global state of commercial fisheries and it became independent non-profit organization in 1999. One of the principal themes is to maintain a certification system for Eco- Labelling. Eco-labelling is a tool for promoting the sustainability of our valuable commercial fish resources and a product bearing an eco-label assures consumers that their fish has been caught with the least possible harm to the natural environment. The MSC is now an important organisation contributing to marine fish conservation and environmental assurance for wild capture fisheries. **The MSC environmental standard** for sustainable fishing applies internationally to all certified fisheries and is based on the Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO) Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries and other international conservation instruments.

Why MSC for South African Trawl-Caught Hake

Fisheries worldwide increasingly use good fisheries resource management practices to safeguard jobs, secure fish stocks for the future and help to protect the marine environment. The MSC environmental standard for sustainable fishing offers fisheries an objective way to confirm sustainability, using credible, independent assessment processes. Certification enables sustainable fisheries to be recognized and rewarded in the marketplace, and it gives assurance to buyers and consumers that their seafood comes from a well managed and sustainable source.

The South African Deep Sea Trawling Industry Association (SADSTIA), acting in conjunction with the South East Coast Inshore Fishing Association (SECIFA), took the initiative in 2002 to start the process of certifying the hake trawl fishery in South Africa. This fishery sector was first certified in April 2004 and, as certification only runs for five years consecutively, is currently

under re-certification. A fishery that meets the MSC standard for sustainable fishing is also surveyed on the spot at least once a year to check that it continues to meet the MSC standard.

Once a fishery has been certified, all companies in the supply chain, from vessel to plate, may obtain **MSC Chain of Custody** certification. This ensures that only seafood from certified fisheries carries the bold, blue MSC eco-label.



Principles underlying MSC Certification

South African Hake Trawl Fisheries had to demonstrate that they meet three core principles in order to be MSC certified:

Principle 1: Sustainable fish stocks

Fishing activity must be at a level which is sustainable for the fish population. The fishery must operate so that fishing can continue indefinitely and may not overexploit the resources.

Principle 2: Minimising environmental impact

Fishing operations should be managed to maintain the structure, productivity, function and diversity of the ecosystem on which the fishery depends.

Principle 3: Effective management

The fishery must meet all local, national and international laws and must have a management system in place able to respond to changing circumstances and to maintain sustainability.

The South African Hake Fishery – Conditions of Certification

When a fishery is certified the MSC will usually impose CONDITIONS upon it with a view to raising it to an even higher standard to ensure that sustainability is maintained. In the first five years of certification the client (SADSTIA) was required to comply with different conditions which necessitated having to take necessary corrective action; such as using tori lines during trawls. One condition related to the impact of trawling gear on the habitat (sea floor).

The primary objective of the “Benthic Habitat Condition” was to estimate the fishery’s impact on organisms living on the trawling grounds. In partial fulfillment of this condition, SADSTIA initiated research that included using the best available data to map the historical and current trawling grounds.

SADSTIA then took the initiative to take our knowledge of the trawling charts to RING FENCE the areas that are known to be trawled. The idea is to PREVENT the expansion of trawling into new areas until such time as we have a better understanding of the impacts of bottom trawling on the sea floor.

RING FENCING THE TRAWLING GROUNDS

The spatial definition of trawling grounds is shown here in a series of charts. These charts were generated from an accumulation of Maxsea trawling records and give an overview of the current boundaries beyond which trawling should not take place. They mark areas known to have been systematically fished in the past and thus assumed to be areas in which alteration of the sea floor due to trawling may already have occurred. Thus ring fencing provides a base line area agreed by SADSTIA **within** which trawling may take place and sets boundaries into which future trawling **would not expand** without independent scientific assessment as approved by the South African fisheries authorities.

This booklet is accompanied by a *.ptf file of the ring fenced area which is loadable into Maxsea and can be used by all vessels that have Maxsea software.

If you do not have Maxsea, the ring fenced areas have been broken down into 5 minute graduations, which allows for easy cross-referencing of the areas onto your nautical charts or other plotting software you may use.

Furthermore, areas that are protected by DEAT permit conditions are indicated in grey shading. These areas (correct at date of publication) may change in the future, therefore for a definitive description please refer to current permit conditions. Areas restricted to the **offshore trawl fishery** include the following (2008 permit conditions):

- East of 020°E longitude, no fishing may take place in water depths of less than 110 metres or within 20 nautical miles from the coast, whichever is the greater distance from the coast.

- In the area west of 020°E longitude, no fishing may take place within 5 nautical miles of the coast.
- No fishing may take place within False Bay, north of a straight line drawn from the lighthouse at Cape Hangklip to the lighthouse at Cape Point.
- During the period 1 September to 30 November, no fishing may take place within the quadrilateral described by lines joining the following four points:—

A: 34°48'S 024°00'E;

B: 34°38'S 025°00'E;

C: 34°44'S 025°00'E; and

D: 34°57'S 024°00'E.

Permit conditions (2008) for the **inshore trawl fishery** also prescribe the following:

- On the landward or northerly side of a straight line joining Cape Vacca and the lighthouse at Cape St Blaize;
- On the landward or northerly side of a straight line joining the lighthouse at Cape St Blaize and Gericke Point;
- Seaward of the lines defined in the paragraphs above within the sector of a circle with a radius of 1.5 nautical miles drawn from the lighthouse at Cape St Blaize;
- Seaward of the high-water mark in the area bounded by a line (160° true bearing) drawn from the Sunday's River mouth and by a line (048° true bearing) drawn from the Donkin reserve lighthouse to its point of intersection with the aforementioned line;
- Landward of a straight line drawn from the Cape Seal lighthouse to the western bank of the Bloukrans River mouth;
- Landward of a straight line drawn from Cape St Francis Point to the lighthouse at Cape Recife;
- Landward of a (084° true bearing) drawn from the lighthouse at Cape Infanta to the beacon marked K2, situated at Cape Barracouta; and
- Within three nautical miles of the coast in the area between Cape Barracouta (34°26'4S, 021°18'1E) and a line drawn 180° (true bearing) from the lighthouse at Ystervarkpunt (34°23'6S, 021°43'7E).
- Within three (3) nautical miles of the high-water mark in the area between beacon DH1 at Still Bay Point and beacon DH2 between Rys Point and Skipskop (De Hoop Marine Protected Area).
- Within the Tsitsikamma Marine Protected Area, which is defined as the area bounded by a line beginning at the highwater mark at Die Punt, Nature's Valley (33°59'0S, 023°34'561E), and running eastwards along the high-water mark to the right bank of the Groot River (east) (34°03'6S, 024°11'665E), and then running due south to a point three nautical miles off shore (34°06'6S, 024°11'665E), then running along a straight line to a point three nautical miles from the high-water mark (34°01'817S, 023°38'857E) measured along a line running due south from the right bank of the mouth of the Bloukrans River, and then due north to a point 0.5 nautical miles from the high-water mark (33°59'317S, 023°38'857E), and then along a straight line to a point (33°59'5S, 023°34'561E) due south of Die Punt, Nature's Valley, and then due north to the high-water mark at the point of beginning.
- Within the Bird Island Marine Protected Area, a rectangle around Bird Island in Algoa Bay defined by the latitudes 33°48'0S and 33°52'0S and the longitudes 026°14'5E and 026°20'0E.

- During the period 1 September to 30 November, no fishing may take place within the quadrilateral described by lines joining the following four points:—

A: 34°48'S 024°00'E;

B: 34°38'S 025°00'E;

C: 34°44'S 025°00'E; and

D: 34°57'S 024°00'E

Instructions for Loading the Ring-Fence into Maxsea

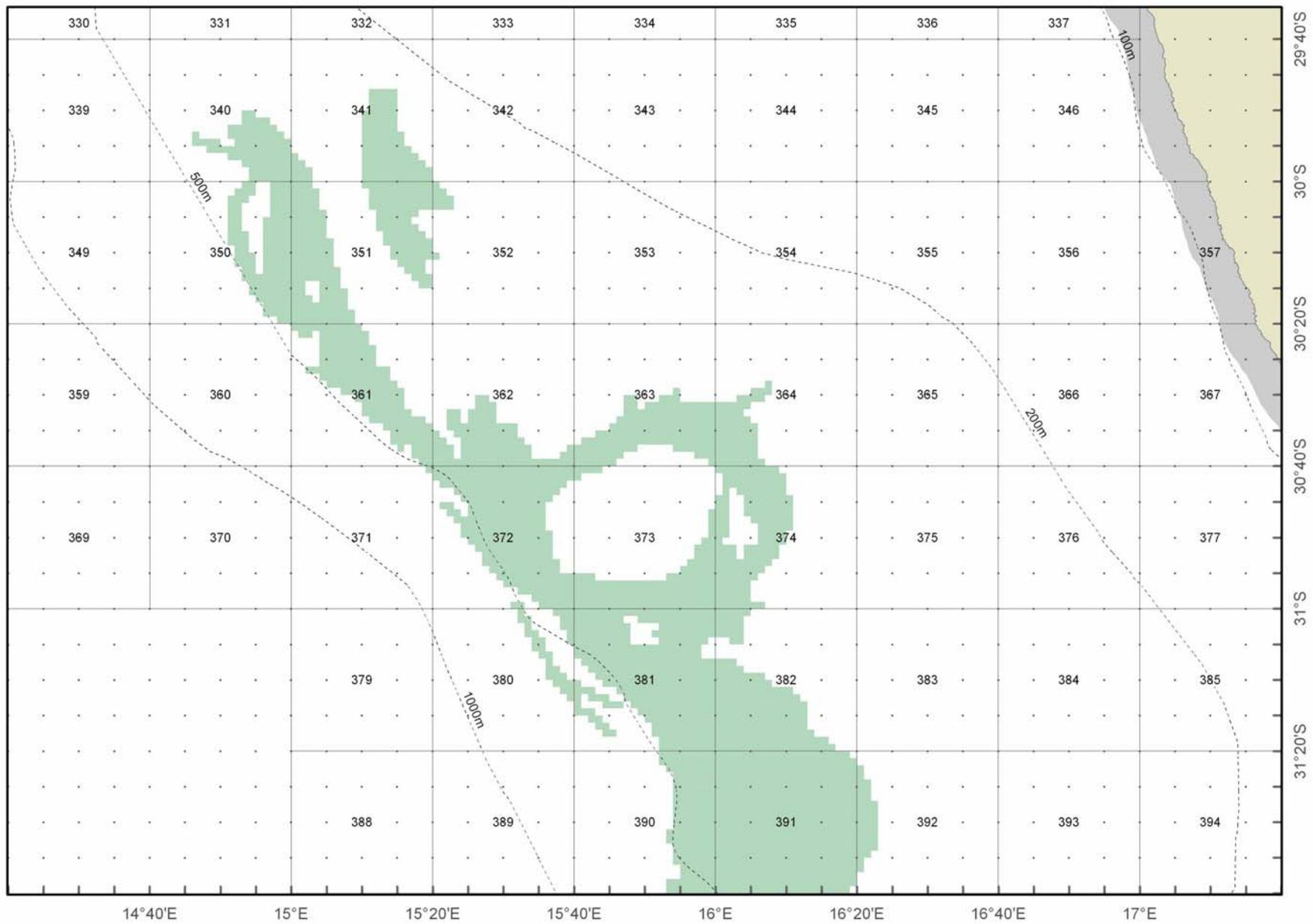
This information brochure is accompanied by a CD containing a *.ptf file that may be opened into Maxsea software as follows:

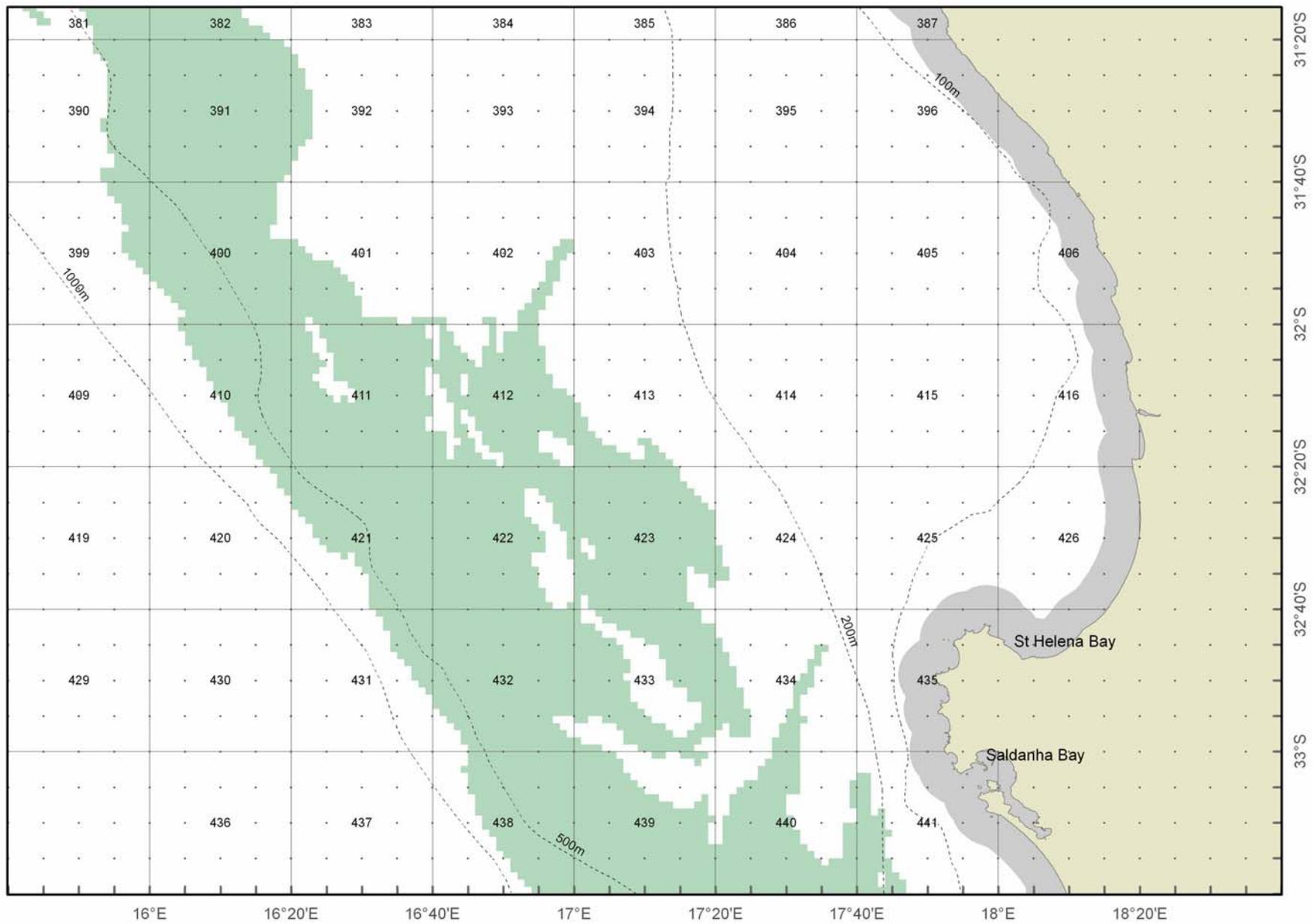
1. Open Maxsea
2. On the toolbar click “file”
3. Select “open”
4. On the drop-down menu select D: drive
5. Select “Trawl Ringfence 2009 Release” file

This should automatically load the ring-fenced area onto your version of Maxsea.

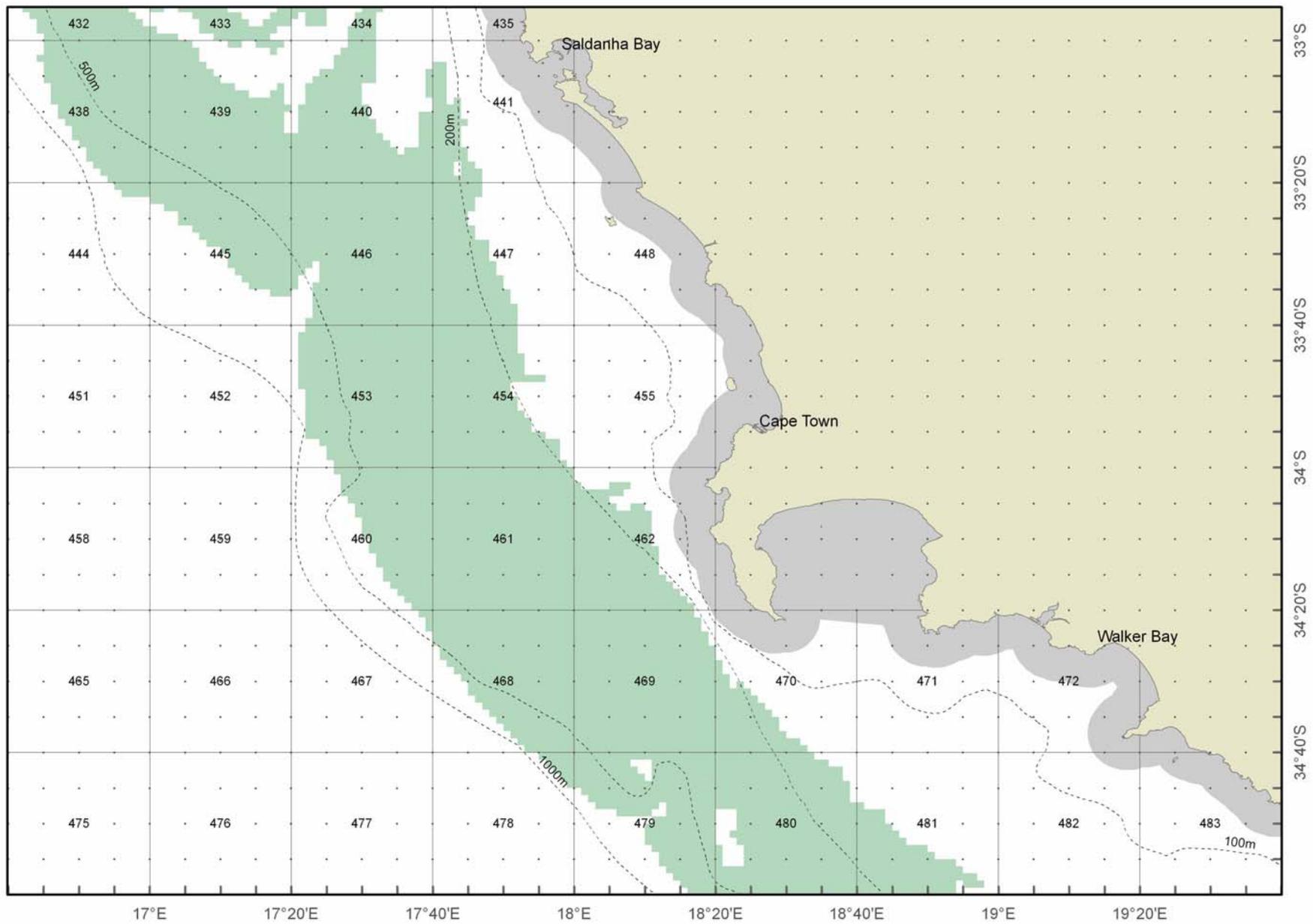


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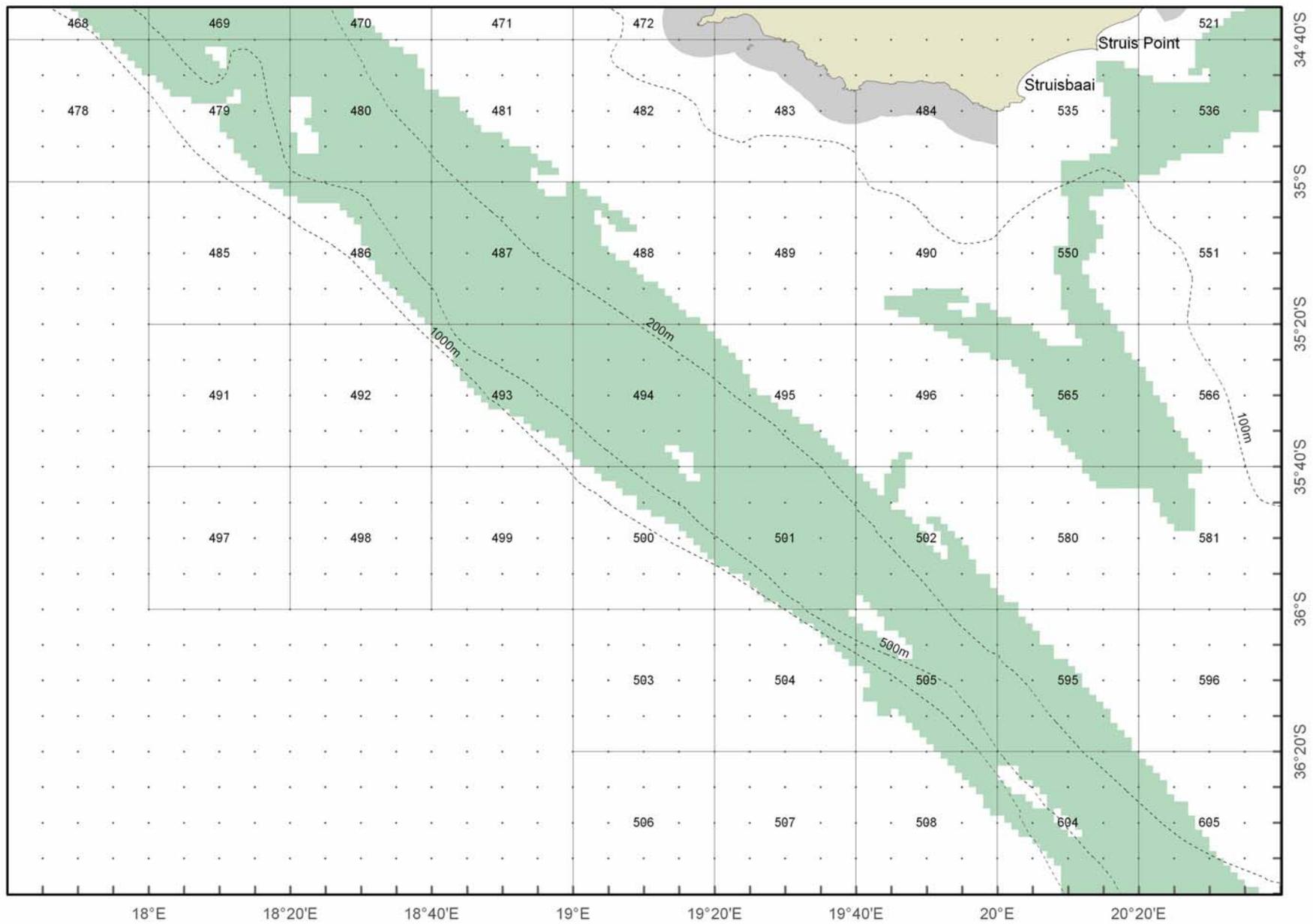




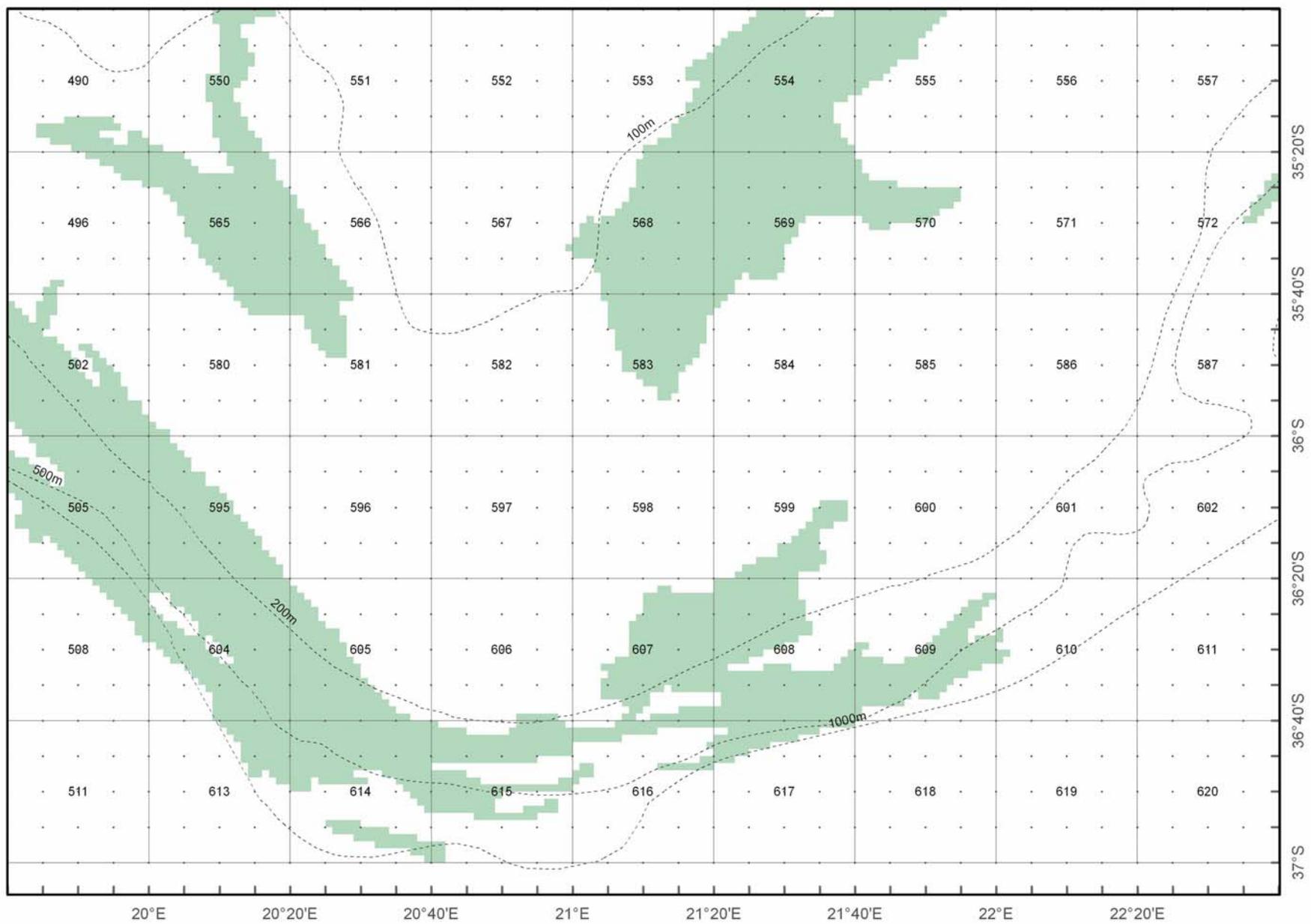
Ring-Fencing the Trawl Grounds: 2009 Release



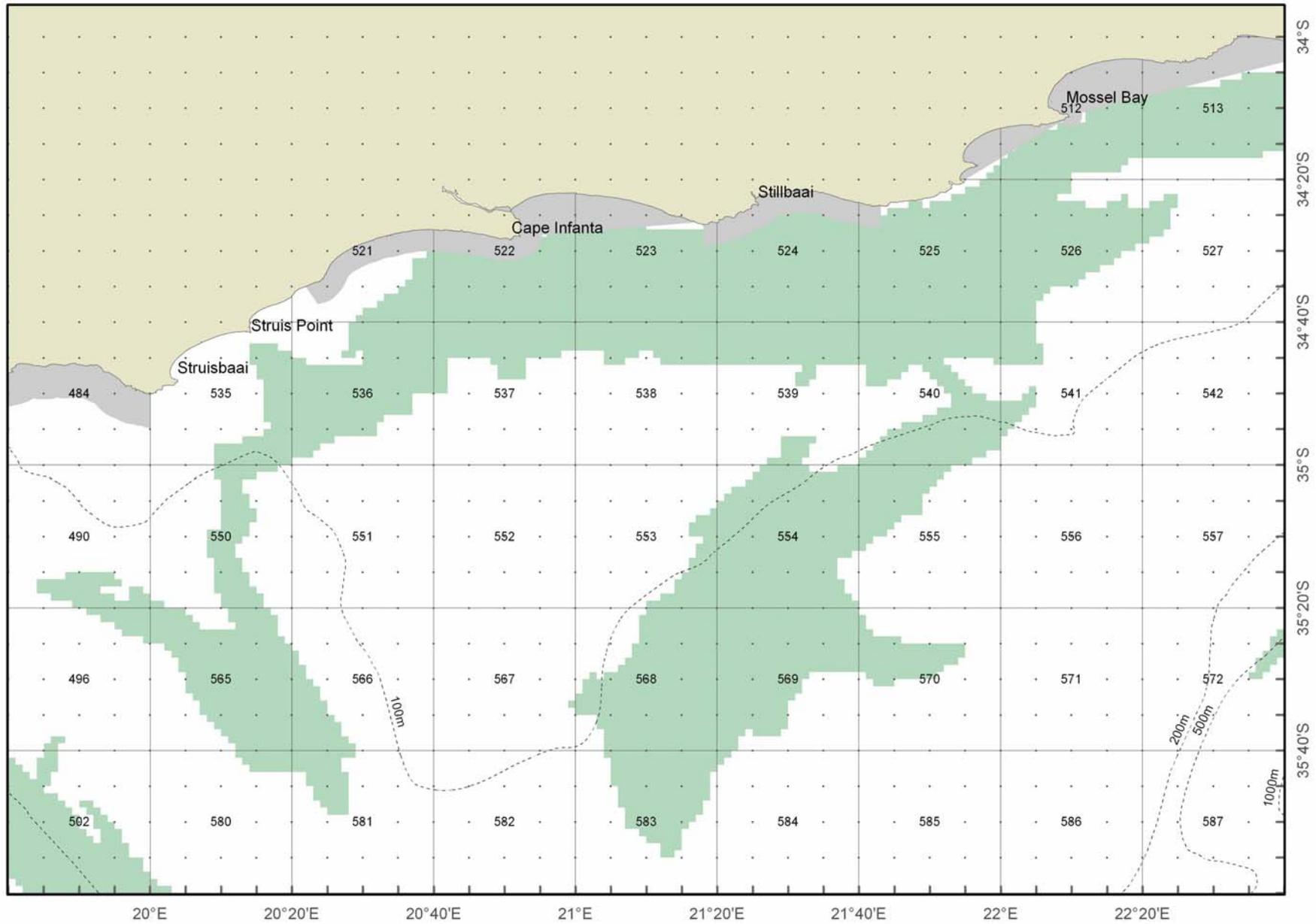
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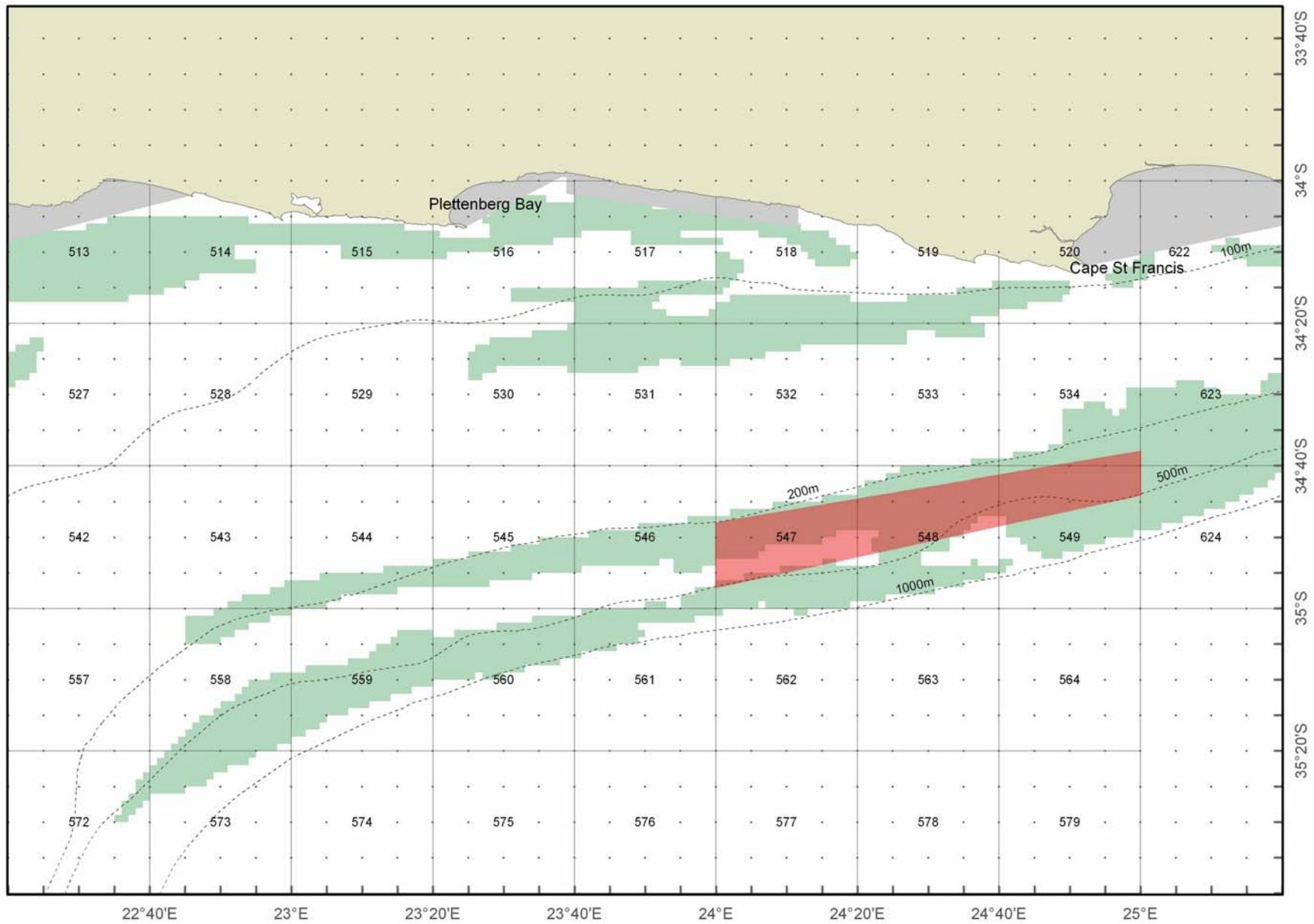
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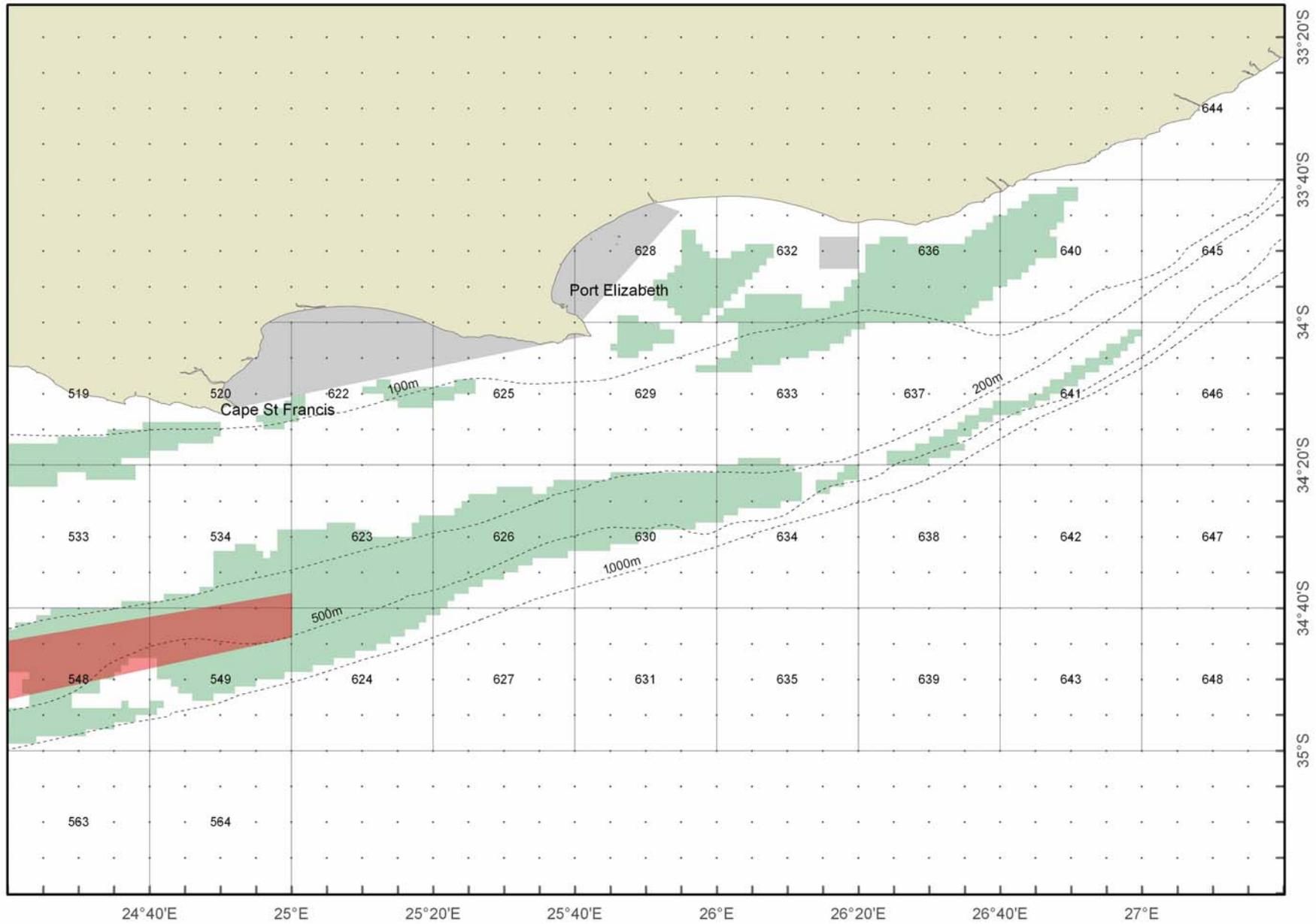
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