

SPOTLIGHTING SOUTH AFRICA'S LIGHTHOUSES: IFafa BEACH LIGHTHOUSE CELEBRATES 43 YEARS OF SERVICE THIS MONTH

(CAPE TOWN, SOUTH AFRICA, 07 FEBRUARY 2023) Ifafa Beach Lighthouse marks 43 years of service this month. It is one of three lighthouses that assist mariners to safely navigate the Aliwal Shoal, a submerged reef approximately five kilometres off the KwaZulu-Natal (KZN) south coast.

Ifafa Beach Lighthouse was commissioned to improve the marking of the Aliwal Shoal. This submerged reef was responsible for the wrecks of the *Nebo* in 1884 and the *MV Produce* in 1974, and the grounding of the *Aimee Lykes* in October 1963. Since the commissioning of the Ifafa Beach Lighthouse, there have been no further wrecks or groundings on the shoal.

Ifafa Beach Lighthouse was first lit on the night of 04 February 1980. The 23-metre aluminium lattice tower is fitted with a rotating beacon that produces three flashes every 30 seconds. The light can be seen for 19 nautical miles, or approximately 35 kilometres. The lighthouse is fully automated and is not manned. It is connected to the mains supply and has a battery back-up.

Aliwal Shoal is popular with recreational divers and smaller-scale fishing. Together with the Green Point (KZN) and Port Shepstone lighthouses, Ifafa Beach Lighthouse plays an important role in ensuring the safety of navigation along this stretch of the KZN south coast.

Transnet National Ports Authority (TNPA) is mandated by the National Ports Act, 2005 (Act No.12 of 2005) to provide, operate and maintain lighthouses and other marine Aids to Navigation (AtoNs) to assist the navigation of vessels within commercial port limits and along the coast of South Africa. There are 44 operational lighthouses along the coast, from Port Nolloth in the west to Sodwana Bay in the east.

A marine AtoN is defined as: "A device, system or service, external to vessels, designed and operated to enhance safe and efficient navigation of individual vessels and/or vessel traffic." This definition emanates from the International Association of Marine Aids to Navigation and Lighthouse Authorities (IALA), the international body that sets the global standards, recommendations, and guidelines for marine AtoNs. South Africa, represented by TNPA, is a founder member of IALA and has been an elected council member since 1994.

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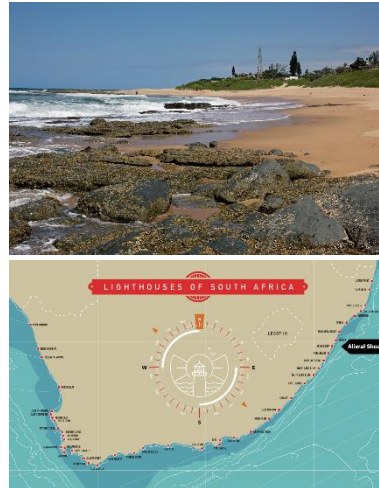
Photo gallery:

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About Transnet National Ports Authority

Transnet National Ports Authority (TNPA) is one of six operating divisions of Transnet SOC Ltd. The National Ports Authority is responsible for the safe, effective, and efficient economic functioning of the national port system, which it manages in a landlord capacity. It provides port infrastructure and marine services at the eight commercial seaports in South Africa – Richards Bay, Durban, Saldanha, Cape Town, Port Elizabeth, East London, Mossel Bay and Ngqura. It operates within a legislative and regulatory environment and is governed by the National Ports Act (Act No. 12 of 2005).

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