

An overview of small scale fisheries in Malta

Fisheries Resource Unit
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Malta

Definition

Malta adopts small scale fisheries as per definition found in Article 26 of Council Regulation No 1198/2006 and in the new European Maritime and Fisheries Fund

Small scale fishing is for vessels less than 12 metres and not using towed gear as listed in table 3 in Annex 1 of Commission Regulation (EC) No 26/2004 of 30 December 2003





- Total capacity of commercial fishing vessels (both PT and FT) less than 12 m in length is 2313.26 GT (25.8 %) and 53,583.32 KW (69.9 %) of the total fleet.
- Almost 92.21% (960 vessels) of the commercial vessels are less than 12 m in length overall and more than half of them are of a traditional design, mainly 'Luzzu' and 'Kajjik' and these operate mainly in coastal waters.



Fishing fleet

The fishing fleet (less than 12m LOA) is composed of 2 categories categorised as 'modern' and

Traditional

- 'Luzzu' and 'Kajjik' which are distinct from modern fishing vessels in shape, size and range of fishing activities.
- Average overall length is of 6.7 m.
- Their average age is 37 years.
- The average Gross Registered Tonnage is 2.5 GT and the average power is 30 kW.



Small Scale Fishing fleet

Modern

- The Multi purpose is the most common type.
- MPVs have a maximum power of 78 kW.
- Their average length is 12 m.
- The average engine power is 78 kW.
- Whereas the traditional fishing boats, such as the 'luzzu' and the 'fusta', which include the 'fusta' and the 'fusta'.



Gears

Gears used by small-scale fisheries include:

- Hooks and lines (60%)
 - Set bottom longlines - targeting breams (*Pagellus spp.*), common sea bream (*Pagrus pagrus*), dogfishes *nei* (*Squalus blainvillei*), dentex (*Dentex dentex*), wreckfish (*Polyprion americanus*) and stone bass (*Epinephelus alexandrinus*);
 - Hand trolling lines - targeting dolphinfish (*Coryphaena hippurus*) and amberjack (*Seriola dumerili*);
 - Drifting longlines - targeting tuna (*Thunnus thynnus*) and swordfish (*Xiphias gladius*) and other species like dolphinfish (*Coryphaena hippurus*);
 - Set surface longlines - ormezzios targeting swordfish (*Xiphias gladius*);



Gears

- Different types of gillnets and entangling nets (20%)
 - Gill nets - Species caught with this type of net include little tunny (*Euthynnus alletteratus*), Mediterranean horse mackerel (*Trachurus mediterraneus*) and bullet tuna (*Auxis rochei*);
 - Combined gill-trammel nets - Species caught include red mullet (*Mullus surmuletus*), Scorpaena (*Scorpaena spp*), cuttlefish (*Sepia officinalis*) and bogue (*Boops boops*);
 - Trammel nets - Species caught include red mullet (*Mullus surmuletus*), Scorpaena (*Scorpaena spp*), cuttlefish (*Sepia officinalis*);
 - Boat seines - such as “Tartarun” and “Lampara”. The former is a hand-hauled seine, used over soft-bottoms targeting transparent goby (*Aphia minuta*), bogue (*Boops boops*). The latter is a small-scale pelagic purse seine used at night in conjunction with a strong light to attract fish. The net is closed around schools of small pelagic fish such as mackerel (*Scomber spp.*) *Trachurus spp.* and bogue (*Boops boops*) .

Gears

- Pots and traps (10%)

Used to catch a wide range of demersal species and are constructed in different shapes and sizes, using different materials according to the species targeted. Species targeted include common octopus (*Octopus vulgaris*), bogue (*Boops boops*), and picarel (*Spicara spp.*)



<http://www.imagine.com/photos/octopus-077/pag048242-photo>

Data Collection

According to the Data Collection Framework Regulation (2008/949/EC):

- For vessels less than 10m in length, data on catch and effort is collected through a Catch Assessment Survey (CAS). Whereas, for vessels over 10m, data is collected through logbooks.

Small Scale Fleet Fishing Seasonality

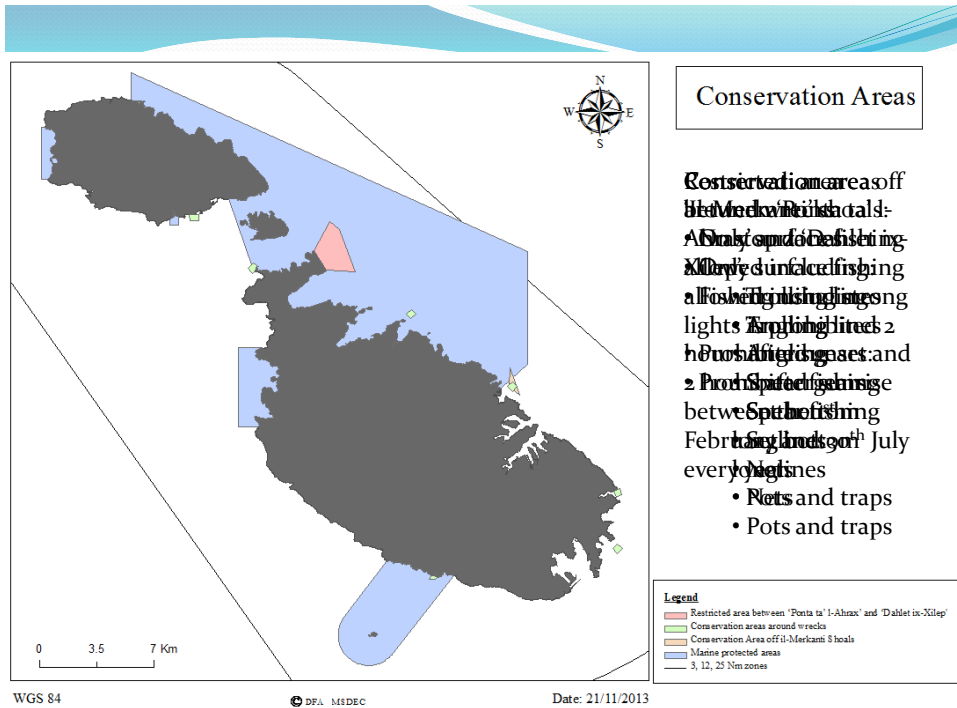
Gear	Target species	Fishing Seasons											
		Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Bottom long lines	Demersal species												
Surface long lines	<i>Thunnus thynnus</i>												
Surface long lines	<i>Xiphias gladius</i>												
Lampara	<i>Scomber spp.</i>												
	<i>Trachurus spp.</i>												
	<i>Boops boops</i>												
Surrounding nets used in conjunction with FADs	<i>Coryphaena hippurus</i>												
Trammel nets	<i>Mullus surmuletus</i>												
	<i>Scorpaena spp.</i>												
	<i>Sepia officinalis</i>												
Combined gill/trammel nets	<i>Mullus surmuletus</i>												
	<i>Scorpaena spp.</i>												
	<i>Sepia officinalis</i>												
	<i>Boops boops</i>												
Gill nets	<i>Euthynnus alletteratus</i>												
	<i>Trachurus mediterraneus</i>												
	<i>Auxis rochei</i>												
Pots and traps	<i>Octopus vulgaris</i>												
	<i>Boops boops</i>												
	<i>Spicara spp.</i>												

Small Scale Fleet Fishing Restricted Areas

Gear	Fishing restricted areas	Regulation
Surrounding nets for Dolphinfish	Within established FAD course lines	EC 1967/2006 amended by EC 1343/2011
Boat seine net	In all bays and creeks, the limit of the area within which the use of the seine net shall be lawful will be outwards of a line drawn between two stone pillars placed on opposite sides of such bays and creeks.	S.L.425.01
Trammel and gill nets	In those localities where the use of the seine net is prohibited. In the Grand and Marsamxett harbours, the use of these implements is prohibited at all times within the prohibited areas above mentioned.	S.L.425.01

Conservation Areas

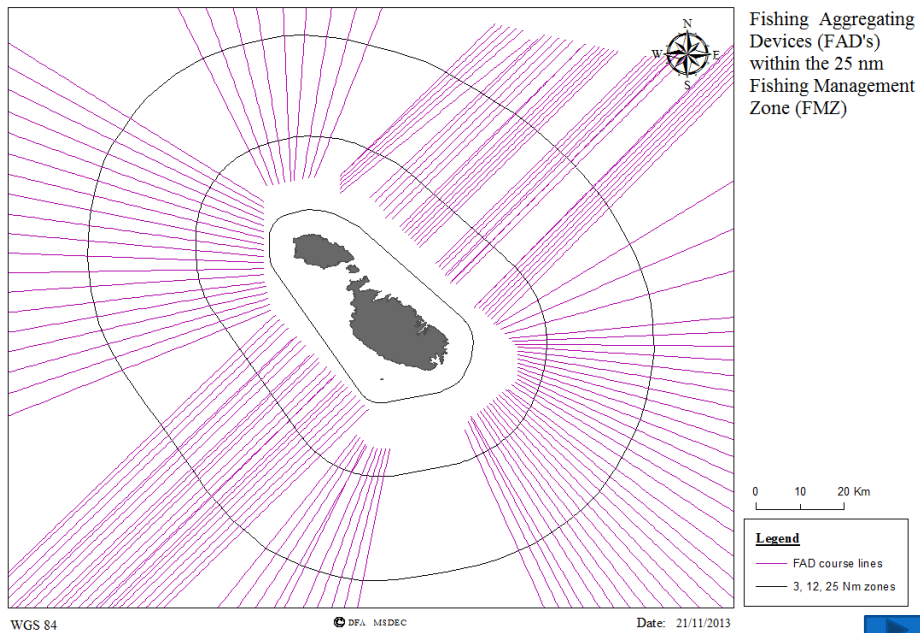
Gear	Conservation Areas	Regulation
All gears except surface fishing including trolling lines and angling for pelagic fish	Conservation area around wrecks – these areas are considered as ‘NO STOPPING AREAS’. Anchoring is allowed to divers’ vessels ONLY after pre-notification to the Valletta VTS. Masters of diving support vessels are to ensure that the appropriate signals in accordance with the International Convention for the Prevention of Collisions at Sea and the International Code of Signals, are shown at all times. Furthermore, spear fishing and the use of fishing gear such as set bottom lines, trammel nets, gillnets and entangling nets, encircling nets, demersal pots and traps are prohibited in these areas. Only surface fishing is allowed including trolling lines and angling for pelagic fish	Notice to Mariners No5 of 2008
All gears	Restricted area between ‘Ponta ta’ l-Ahrax’ and ‘Dahlet ix-Xilep’ – all vessels and craft are to adhere to the following conduct while transiting the area between 1st February and 30 July every year. The hours between which the conduct is applicable are 2 hours before sunset till 2 hours after sunrise. Fishing activities in the area using strong lights are prohibited in line with Art 4 of the Fishery Regulation (S.L. 425.01) and Council regulation (EC) No 1967/2006 concerning management	Notice to Mariners No 2 of 2010
All gears except surface fishing	Conservation Area off il-Merkanti Shoals – Spear fishing gear, set bottom lines, trammel nets, encircling gill nets and entangling nets, demersal pots and traps, are prohibited in the area. Only surface fishing is allowed.	Notice to Mariners No 67 of 2004



Conservation Areas

Gear	Conservation Areas	Regulation
All gears	Zones reserved for Swimmers – between the 25th May 2012 and 30th September 2012 – no boats, sea craft or objects which may endanger the safety of bathers shall be used within a swimmers' zone .	Notice to Mariners No 31 of 2012 Please note that this is updated every year.
Fishing with trawl nets, dredges, purse seines, boat seines, shore seines or similar nets	Above seagrass beds of in particular, Posidonia oceanica or other marine phanerogams shall be prohibited. By way of derogation from the first subparagraph, the use of purse seines, boat seines or similar nets, whose overall drop and behaviour in fishing operations mean that the purse-line, the lead-line or the hauling ropes do not touch the seagrass bed may be authorised within management plans in particular.	EC 1967/2006
Fishing with trawl nets, dredges, purse seines, boat seines, shore seines or similar nets	Above coralligenous habitats and maerl beds shall be prohibited.	EC 1967/2006

Thank you
for your attention.



Zones where trammel nets are prohibited (2012 - 2013)

