



ΥΠΟΥΡΓΕΙΟ ΕΞΩΤΕΡΙΚΩΝ
Β1 Διεύθυνση
Σχεδιασμού Εξωστρέφειας και Συντονισμού
Φορέων Εξωστρέφειας

ΑΔΙΑΒΑΘΜΗΤΟ
ΚΑΝΟΝΙΚΟ

Αρμόδιος: Κωνσταντίνος Κουρούμαλος, Γραμματέας ΟΕΥ Α'
Τηλ.: 210 368 2764
E-mail: db1@mfa.gr

Αθήνα, 2 Ιουνίου 2022
Α.Π.: 31473

ΠΡΟΣ : - ΠΙΝΑΚΑΣ ΑΠΟΔΕΚΤΩΝ (μ.σ. - μ.η. - με e-mail)

ΚΟΙΝ.: - Πρεσβεία Βαλέττας

Ε.Δ.: - Διπλ. Γραφείο κ. Πρωθυπουργού
- Διπλ. Γραφείο κ. Υπουργού
- Διπλ. Γραφείο κ. ΑΝΥΠΕΞ
- Διπλ. Γραφείο Υφυπουργού κ. Φραγκογιάννη
- Γραφείο κ. Γενικού Γραμματέα
- Γραφείο κ. Γεν. Γραμματέα ΔΟΣ & Εξωστρέφειας
- Γραφεία κ.κ. Α' & Β' Γενικών Διευθυντών
- Α1, Β3 Δ/σεις } (χ.σ.)

ΘΕΜΑ: «Πρόσκληση εκδήλωσης ενδιαφέροντος για επενδύσεις σε ΑΟΖ Μάλτας»
ΣΧΕΤ.: Έγγραφο Πρεσβείας Βαλέττας με Α.Π.Φ.: 101/10/ΑΣ 228 /26.05.2022 (μ.π.ο)

Σε συνέχεια ανωτέρω σχετικού, όπως μας ενημέρωσε η Πρεσβεία Βαλέττας, το Υπουργείο Οικονομικών της Μάλτας (Γενική Διεύθυνση για Θέματα Υφαλοκρητίδας - ΑΟΖ Μάλτας) εξέδωσε Ανακοίνωση για πρόσκληση ενδιαφέροντος(επισυνάπτεται), για επενδύσεις από εταιρείες (Προκαταρκτική Διαβούλευσης Αγοράς/Preliminary Market Consultation-PMC), στην ΑΟΖ της Μάλτας, στους ακόλουθους τομείς:

- παραγωγή ενέργειας από ανανεώσιμες πηγές
- αλιεία/ιχθυοκαλλιέργειες
- κατασκευή τεχνητών νήσων

Σκοπός της εν θέματι Ανακοίνωσης είναι η πρόσκληση διεθνώς αναγνωρισμένων εταιριών, οι οποίες μπορούν να υποβάλουν (προθεσμία 30.9.2022) εν γένει επιλέξιμες προτάσεις ανάπτυξης συγκεκριμένων οικονομικών δραστηριοτήτων.

Διευκρινίζεται, από πλευράς Μάλτας, ότι οι οριοθετηθείσες περιοχές, για τις προαναφερθείσες δραστηριότητες, έχουν επιλεγεί προσεκτικά, ώστε να μην συμπίπτουν με μη οριοθετημένα τμήματα ΑΟΖ, προκειμένου να υπάρχει καθαρότητα και ασφάλεια για τις ενδιαφερόμενες εταιρείες.

Η υποβολή των προτάσεων γίνεται διαδικτυακά (www.etenders.gov.mt), ενώ για περισσότερες πληροφορίες και τυχόν διευκρινήσεις, οι ενδιαφερόμενες εταιρείες-μέλη σας θα πρέπει να απευθυνθούν στα ακόλουθα στοιχεία επικοινωνίας:

Υπηρεσία: Continental Shelf Department

Δ/ση: Antonio Maurizio Valperga Street, Floriana FRNI 1700 Malta

Τηλ.: +356 22583800

E-mail: dqcs.csmalta@gov.mt

Παρακαλούμε για την ενημέρωση των μελών σας.

Σελ.: Δώδεκα (12)

Ο Διευθυντής

Απόστολος Μιχαλόπουλος
Σύμβουλος Ο.Ε.Υ. Α'

Preliminary Market Consultation - PMC

For

**The proposal of economic activities within
Malta's Exclusive Economic Zone**

Issued by:
Continental Shelf Department

PMC No. CSD/4/2022

Issue Date: 2 May 2022

Response/Submission Date and Time:
30 September 2022 at 11:00 am (CEST)

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Section A: Instructions

1) Response to this PMC are to be submitted online through the ePPS (electronic Public Procurement System) as per the instructions given in Article 8 of Section B of this document.

All submissions will be dealt with in strictest confidence.

Section B:**General Information****1) Purpose**

The purpose of this Preliminary Market Consultation (PMC) is to invite internationally reputable companies to propose economic activities that can be carried out in an exclusive economic zone area beyond the territorial waters of Malta so that Government can gauge the interest of investors in Malta's offshore opportunities and can gain knowledge of the possible activities that companies are willing to invest in. Following the evaluation of the responses received through this PMC, the Contracting Authority intends to issue a call for a particular activity or activities.

The issuance of this PMC does not constitute a commitment on the part of the Contracting Authority to issue a request for bids, award a contract, or pay any costs incurred in preparation of a response to this PMC.

Any information received in response to this PMC will assist the Contracting Authority's project team in finalising the scope of work and requirements which may be used at a future date in the issuance of a call. Submitting a response to this PMC is not a guarantee in any way that an Economic Operator will be selected for any subsequent call, nor does it preclude any Economic Operator from responding to future procurement opportunities.

2) Issuing Office

The issuing office, being the Continental Shelf Department within the Ministry for Finance and Employment is the point of contact for this PMC. Please refer any inquiries or request for clarifications to:

Continental Shelf Department
Antonio Maurizio Valperga Street
Floriana FRN1700
Malta
Telephone: +356 22583800
E-mail: dqcs.csmalta@gov.mt

Any PMC addenda/updates will be made available through the ePPS.

3) Scope

Following the enactment of the Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) Act in 2021, the Government of Malta intends to designate an EEZ area or areas beyond the territorial waters of Malta in line with the rights provided under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) and the Exclusive Economic Zone Act (Cap. 625) of the laws of Malta. These rights include:

- (a) sovereign rights for the purpose of exploring and exploiting, conserving and managing the natural resources of the waters superjacent to the seabed and for the economic exploration and exploitation such as the production of energy from the water, currents and winds;
- (b) jurisdictional rights with respect to (i) the establishment and use of artificial islands, installations and structures, (ii) marine scientific research and (iii) the protection and preservation of the marine environment.

The scope of this PMC is to invite economic operators to submit proposals for economic activities in line with the above rights that can be carried out in such designated areas and to suggest key technical, legal, commercial and/or financial mechanisms under which such activities can be conducted. The following are the activities that can be proposed within the EEZ:

- (a) the production of renewable energy from water, winds, currents and solar including the production and storage of hydrogen;
- (b) fisheries and aquaculture projects in accordance with the Fisheries Conservation and Management Act (Cap. 425);
- (c) establishment of artificial islands; and
- (d) any other economic activity that is allowed under the EEZ Act.

This PMC excludes proposals for oil and gas exploration as these activities are already available for licensing under a separate legislative framework:
(<https://continentalshelf.gov.mt/en/Pages/Licensing-Applications.aspx>).

4) Information Requested from Economic Operators

Economic Operators are to respond in the English Language to the questions listed in Section D.

5) Economic Operators Presentations

The Contracting Authority may request Economic Operators to provide a presentation on the information provided in response to this PMC. All costs associated with such presentations will be borne by the Economic Operator.

6) Confidentiality and PMC Ownership

This PMC is both confidential and proprietary to the Contracting Authority and the latter reserves the right to recall the PMC in its entirety or in part. Economic Operators agree that they will not duplicate, distribute or otherwise disseminate or make available this document or the information contained in it without the express written consent of the Contracting Authority.

Economic Operators shall not include or reference this PMC in any publicity without prior written approval from the Contracting Authority, which, if granted, shall be granted by the Contracting Authority. Economic Operators accept all the foregoing terms and conditions without exception.

7) Disclosure of Proposal Contents

All material submitted by the Economic Operator becomes the property of the Contracting Authority and may be returned only at the Contracting Authority's option. Information proposals submitted to the Contracting Authority may be reviewed and evaluated by any person other than competing Economic Operators at the discretion of the Contracting Authority.

The Contracting Authority has the right to use any or all ideas presented in any reply to the PMC.

Where confidential or proprietary information is required, or should the Economic Operator deem it necessary to submit such material, each page/section should be marked in large bold type: **PROPRIETARY INFORMATION**.

If any response to the Preliminary Market Consultation contains a trade secret or confidential commercial/proprietary information, one should include with the response a separate signed written statement to that effect.

8) Submission Instructions

The Contracting Authority is using the electronic public procurement system for its solicitations. In order to receive and submit a response to this PMC, Economic Operators must register through www.etenders.gov.mt.

This Preliminary Market Consultation may be found by typing the PMC# reference number in the 'Search' tab.

Important: Economic Operators should contact the Contracting Authority if they are unable to register correctly, or if they experience difficulty in uploading/downloading documents from the ePPS.

Economic Operators may upload a single electronic file or if uploading multiple electronic files, they may upload one zipped folder containing those files. Current upload file size limit is 100MB. If the submission was submitted properly, an Economic Operator will receive an automated acknowledgement that the proposal has been successfully uploaded.

Section C

1) Description of the Contracting Authority and Background information

The Continental Shelf Department is responsible for regulating and promoting the upstream oil and gas sector and regulating other activities on Malta's continental shelf such as the laying of submarine cables and pipelines, marine scientific research and the construction, operation and use of artificial islands, structures and devices.

In 2021, the Department was responsible for the drafting of the Exclusive Economic Zone Act and following the enactment of this Act by Parliament, the Department assumed the responsibility for the administration and implementation of the Act and any regulations that will be issued under this Act. The Department is responsible for the publication of this PMC and following the evaluation of the proposals received, should the Government decide to proceed with a call, the Department will be responsible for coordinating with the respective Government Department or entity the issuance of a call for a particular activity or activities with the aim of attracting investment in offshore opportunities.

2) General objectives and strategic planning of the Contracting Authority relating to this PMC

The objective of the PMC is to invite operators to propose economic activities that can be carried out in the EEZ or parts thereof once designated. This would enable the Contracting Authority to gauge the interest of potential investors and should the Government decide to proceed with a call, to prepare a contracting procedure that would address a preferred activity or activities that can be carried out within the EEZ.

The geographical scope of this PMC is shown graphically in Section E (Figure 1) and represents an area beyond the territorial waters (12 nautical miles (nm)) extending up to the Fishing Management Zone (25nm from the baselines) or to the median line whichever is the closest. It consists of two main zones:

- (a) The area located adjacent to Hurd Bank outside territorial waters having a water depth that ranges from approximately 50 to 100m and an area of approximately 916 square kilometres (EEZ Area 1 shown hatched in red in Figure 1); and
- (b) Any other area excluding (a) above outside territorial waters and within the limit of the proposed EEZ area having a water depth that ranges from 100 to 1,000 m and an area of approximately 6,500 square kilometres (EEZ Area 2 shown hatched in black in Figure 1).

Apart from the areas indicated above the Contracting Authority will also consider, subject to certain restrictions and conditions, activities proposed in EEZ areas beyond 25nm in accordance with the Exclusive Economic Zone Act (Cap. 625) of the laws of Malta. Malta's potential EEZ is given in Section E (Figure 2). Following the PMC response and a cost-benefit analysis, the Contracting Authority intends to prepare a contracting procedure addressing a particular activity or activities.

The company with the best offer will then enter into an agreement with the Government having conditions similar to the ones given in the contracting procedure. The agreement may run for any duration of time as required for the economic viability of such investments.

Section D

Details of information requested

1) General Economic Operator Information

The Contracting Authority is asking interested Economic Operators to submit a response containing, as a minimum, the following information:

- (a) Description of the economic activity that is being proposed to be carried out in an EEZ area and description of the reason for the interest in possibly carrying out the economic activity;
- (b) Brief background of the company;
- (c) Brief description of past experience on similar activity or activities as well as a description of similar projects;
- (d) An indication of the level of investment required for the implementation of the proposed activity or activities and an estimation of the yearly revenue from such an activity or activities;
- (e) The best estimated time frame for completing the project and the overall life-cycle of the project, that is the proposed agreement term; and
- (f) Company literature, if available.

2) Specific Project Overview

A. High Level business requirements

- (a) Specify the proposed type of economic activity (e.g. production of renewable energy from water, winds, currents and solar; the production and storage of hydrogen; fisheries and aquaculture projects; establishment of artificial islands; etc) and provide key technical (e.g. estimate of power generation capacity of renewable energy source) and financial details (e.g. indicative level of investment and estimated annual revenue as well as the assumptions on which they are based).
- (b) Specify whether the proposed economic activity or activities depend on any investment or infrastructure that Government would need to make prior or during the construction and operation phase of the project.

- (c) Specify whether the proposed economic activity or activities include any investment or infrastructure within the territorial and internal waters of Malta and onshore Malta.
- (d) In the case of the proposed activity or activities, quantify the estimated government financial support, if any, required to ensure commercial feasibility of project.
- (e) Specify how the project would be financed.

B. Overview of functional requirements

- (a) Specify the area, by providing a GIS shapefile, where the activity is proposed to be carried out i.e. either in Proposed EEZ Area 1 or EEZ Area 2 (Figure 1 in Section E) or an area beyond 25 nm within Malta's potential EEZ (Figure 2) and the overall marine footprint area of the project;
- (b) Specify key technical, legal, commercial and/or financial considerations deemed necessary to ensure a high project realisation rate including the assumed government support (where applicable);
- (c) Identify the effects of the proposed activity on other maritime activities (such as shipping, ship-to-ship transfers, fishing, etc) and propose appropriate measures to minimise conflicting use of the maritime space;
- (d) Identify high level effects of the proposed activity on the marine environment and propose appropriate mitigation measures.

C. Overview of information security requirements

- (a) Identify any security and safety measures that would be required during the construction phase including the transportation of material and operation phase of the project.
- (b) Identify the buffer area around the installation that would be required to ensure that the installation will be safe and protected from other maritime activities including but not limited to the area, if any, where fishing activities would be excluded.
- (c) Identify risks and propose mitigation measures that relate to adverse weather conditions and possible geo-hazards.

D. Overview of availability requirements

Identify risks and approximate lead times for the availability of material and other infrastructure required for the installation. How would the delivery of material affect the project timeline?

E. Overview of technical requirements

Provide a high-level overview of the technical requirements for the activity or activities, its dependence on other infrastructure and any other technical factors that may affect the proper performance of the activity or activities.

F. Legal requirements

The activity or activities proposed, must be in line with the allowed activities in Section B(3) - Scope of this PMC, and will require the relevant authorisations in accordance with the laws of Malta, including but not limited to authorisations from the Planning Authority, Environment Resources Authority, Lands Authority, Superintendence of Cultural Heritage, Continental Shelf Department, and depending on the type of activity, a permit from other relevant entities. With regard to environmental permitting refer to Section E of this document as there are various protected areas within the Fishing Management Zone (25 nautical mile).

The activity or activities will also be regulated by the laws of Malta.

At the stage of the issuance of this PMC, Government has not yet declared an EEZ area, however prior to the issuance of a call for a particular activity or activities, Government will issue a legal notice to declare the relevant EEZ area or areas and relevant regulations in accordance with the activity or activities covered by the contracting procedure.

3) Response Format

Responses are to be straightforward, clear, concise and specific to the information requested. In order for submissions to be considered complete, Economic Operators must provide all the requested information mentioned in this document as well as any other comments, observations or suggestions which potentially may assist the Contracting Authority in the PMC stage.

Section E

Additional Information

EEZ Areas: Figure 1 below shows the location of EEZ Area 1 (hatched in red) and EEZ Area 2 (hatched in black) in which the proposed economic activities can be carried out. Malta's potential EEZ is given in Figure 2. Shapefiles are also provided with this PMC for all the EEZ areas.

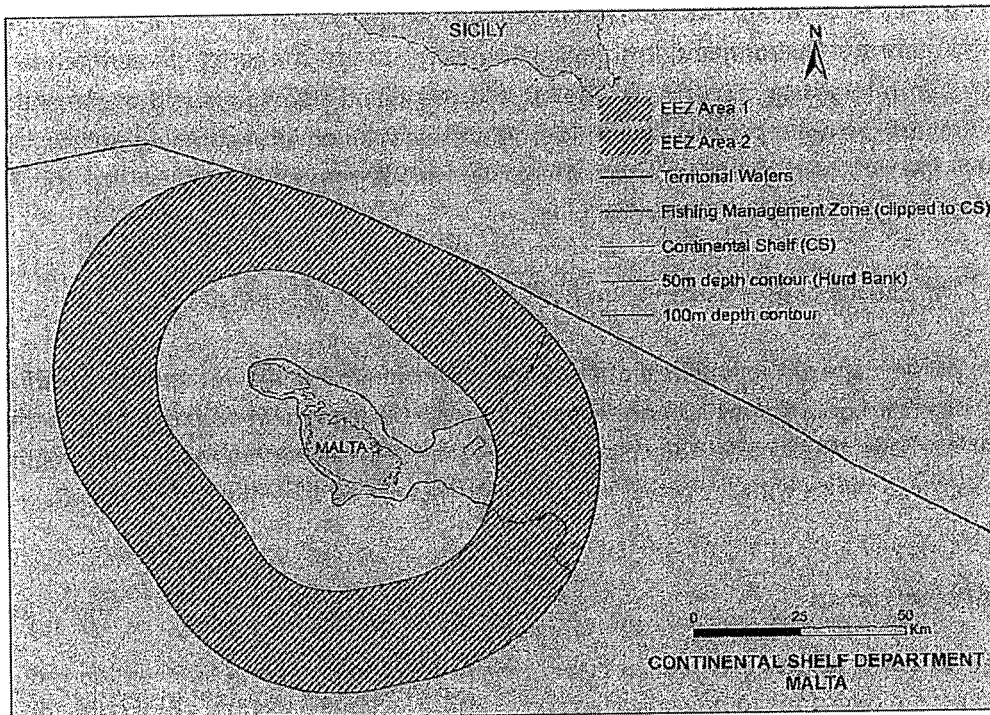


Figure 1 – EEZ Area 1 and EEZ Area 2

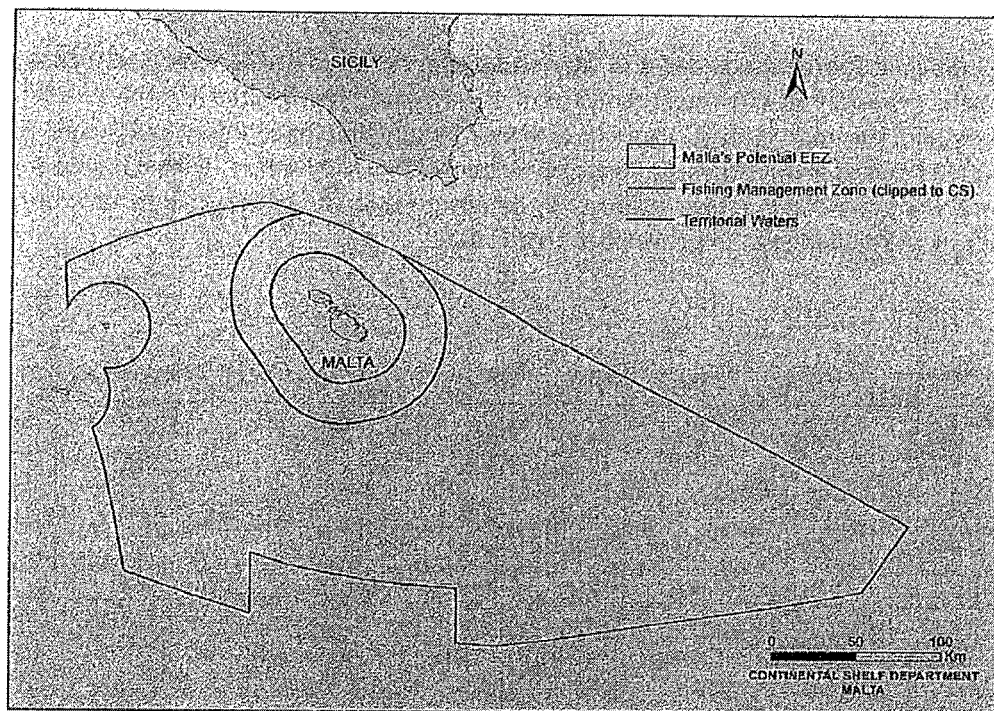


Figure 2 –Malta's Potential EEZ

Water Depths: The bathymetry within the proposed EEZ areas is shown in Figure 3. Water depths in EEZ Area 1 (hatched in red in Figure 1) range from approximately 50 to 100m and in EEZ Area 2 (hatched in black) from 100 to 1000m. A shapefile is also provided with this PMC.

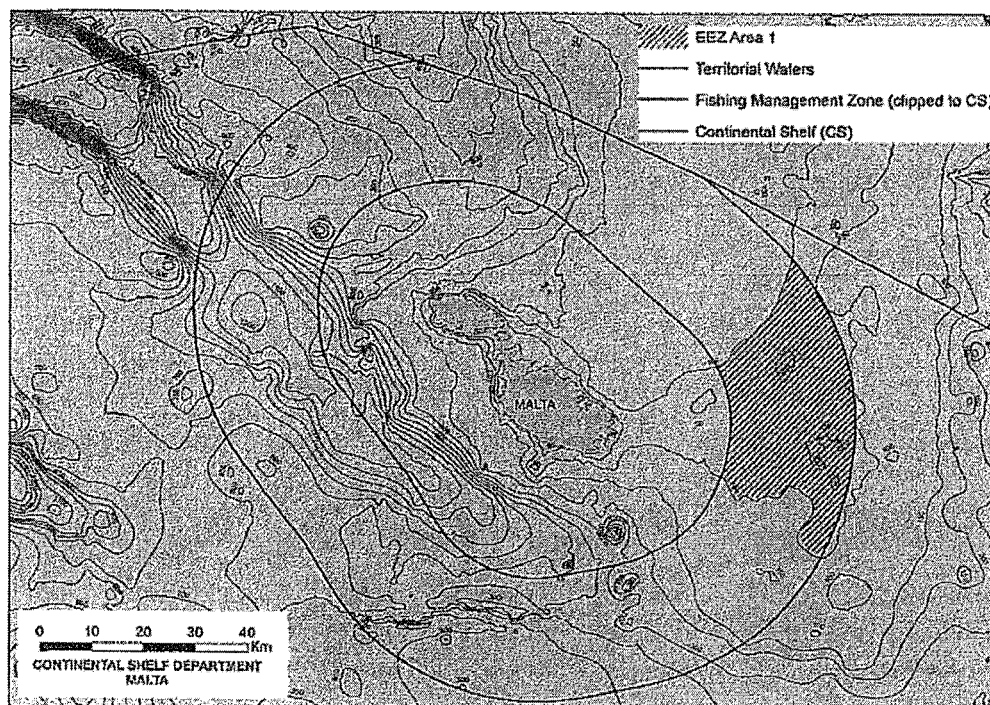


Figure 3 – Bathymetry

Marine Special Protection Areas and Marine Special Areas of Conservation: Figure 4 below shows the marine special protection areas that have been designated for the protection of seabirds and the marine special areas of conservation that have been designated for the protection of cetaceans, turtles and a variety of important sea habitats. Such designations may increase the time for the implementation of any proposed activity due to environmental permitting. A shapefile is also provided with this PMC.

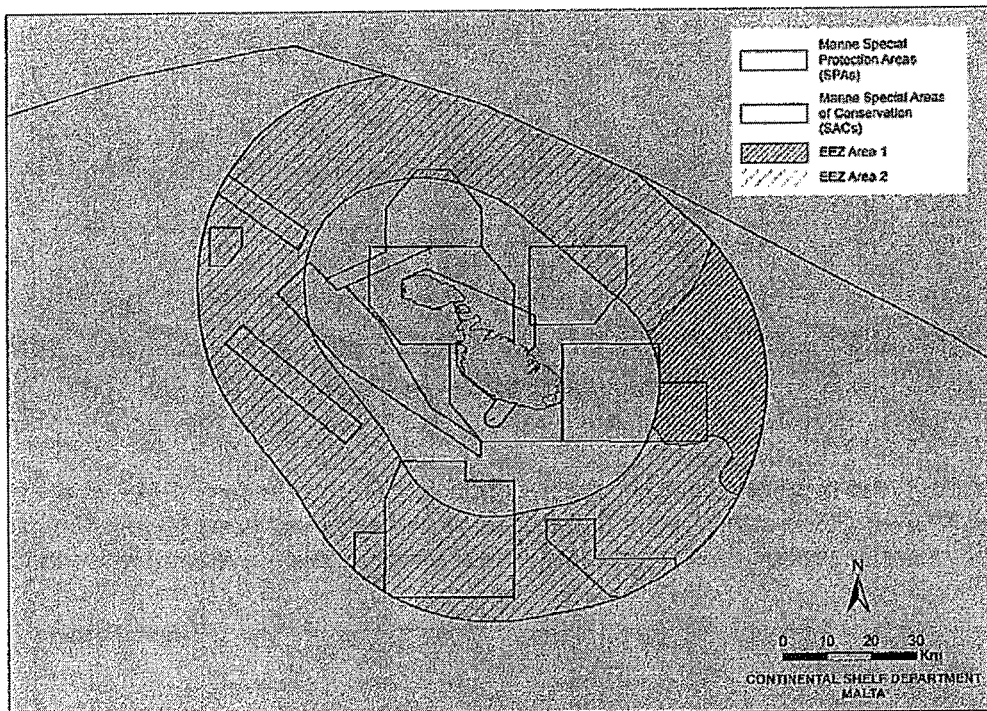


Figure 4 – Marine Special Protection Areas and Marine Special Areas of Conservation