

SUBSIDIARY LEGISLATION 425.01

FISHERY REGULATIONS

25th May, 1934;

23rd April, 1935

GOVERNMENT NOTICE 206 of 1934, as amended by Legal Notices 48 of 1962, 19 of 1964, 80 of 1978, 58 of 1979 and 154 of 1993; and GOVERNMENT NOTICE 148 of 1935, as amended by Government Notice 481 of 1936 and Notice dated 23.02.1937, consolidated.

1. The title of these Regulations is the Fishery Regulations. Title.
2. Subject to the provisions of regulations 10 and 11, the use of the following fishing implements and methods is permitted without any licence at all times and in all localities: Fishing without licence.
 - (i) all methods of hook and line fishing, including jigging with *gulpara* and *hiel*;
 - (ii) the fish spear or grains;
 - (iii) the basket traps called *drajna*, *nassi tal-granċ*, *nassi tal-qarnit*, and *nassi tal-imrejjen*;
 - (iv) the small hand nets called *kopp tal-gambli*, *kopp tal-wiċċ*, *kopp tal-laċċi*, and *kopp tal-lhud*;
 - (v) all other minor and recognised fishing implements not otherwise specified in these Regulations, such as *delfinara*, *ganċ*, or *gaffa*.
3. The use of any fishing implement which is not mentioned in regulation 2 is subject to a licence from the Director of Fisheries. Licence to use fishing implements.
4. (1) The use of the fishing implement known as the *lampara* is prohibited within the territorial waters of Malta. Prohibition of use of *lampara*.
 (2) The Prime Minister may, however, grant a limited number of licenses for fishing by means of the *lampara* whenever he considers it necessary, in order to ensure a sufficient supply of fish for the population of Malta: *G.N. 148 of 1935; as amended by G.N. 481 of 1936, and Notice dated 23.02.1937, consolidated.*
- Provided that the use of the *lampara* shall not be permitted within one mile from the shores of Malta.
5. Unless provided for in these Regulations, the locality in which, and the period during which, the implement may be used shall be specified on the licence. Locality specified in the licence.
6. The Director may grant for scientific purposes a licence for the use of any implement in any locality except those localities indicated in regulation 12. Licence for scientific purposes.
7. The Director may grant, for the purposes of restocking fishponds, special permits to owners of fishponds to fish within prohibited areas, other than those indicated in regulations 11 and 12, for a specified number of times in a year under such conditions as may from time to time be imposed. Special permits for fishponds.
8. It shall be lawful for the Director to grant or withdraw Withdrawal of licence.

	without compensation any licence, to order modifications in any implement or to prohibit its use, and to make any change in the demarcations of closed areas and in the periods established for the use of any implement.
Validity of licence.	9. Licences under these Regulations shall be personal and shall be valid up to the 31st December and renewable on the 1st January.
Number of licences.	10. The number of licences to be issued for each kind of implement shall be left to the discretion of the Director.
Prohibition of fishing.	11. Fishing is strictly prohibited in the proximity of the sewage outfall at Wied Ghammieg within the area demarcated on the land side by two stone pillars painted red situated on the sides of the drainage outlet, one on Xghajra shore in the vicinity of Ras il-Ġebel and the other under the Ricasoli Bastion and on the sea side by two range buoys. It is also prohibited to collect by any means from the same area any edible marine products.
Fishing not permitted in certain areas.	12. No fishing shall be permitted in the Dockyard Creek or in the French Creek, that is in those parts of the Grand Harbour to the south east of a line drawn from St. Angelo Point to Isola Point and thence to the northern end of Parlatorio Wharf and Corradino Hill without a special licence issued by the Director with the approval of the Prime Minister.
Fishing implements carried on boats.	13. Persons carrying in their boats any fishing implement shall be deemed, for the purposes of these Regulations, to have used such implements.
Trawling.	14. It shall not be lawful for any steam or motor propelled vessel or trawler, as well as for sailing vessels, to shoot or tow any kind of nets within the territorial waters of these Islands; neither may the method of towing a trawl between two power driven vessels (<i>paranze</i>) be practised within the said territorial waters.
The seine net (<i>tartarun</i>). <i>Amended by:</i> <i>L.N. 58 of 1979.</i>	15. It shall not be lawful to keep or use a seine net without a licence for its use. No mesh of this implement shall be less than eight point five millimetres long each side knot to knot, even when the net is wet and its weights shall not be so heavy as to cause the sinking of the floats.
Use of seine net in bays.	16. 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.
Turbid waters.	17. The use of the seine net shall not be permitted in any locality when the waters are turbid.
Forfeiture of licence.	18. Licences for the use of the seine net shall be forfeited upon a second conviction for contraventions of the provisions governing the use of the implement.
Special permits. <i>Amended by:</i> <i>L.N. 58 of 1979.</i>	19. The Director may grant special permits for stated periods for the use of the seine net within the prohibited areas for the purpose of catching migratory fish, provided no mesh of the net is less than twenty-five point five millimetres square.

- 20.** It shall not be lawful to keep or use a shrimp dredge without a licence for its use. The net of this implement shall have no meshes less than six point five millimetres square, even when wet, and shall in no case be longer than three point one metres, whilst the iron bar at its mouth shall not exceed one point five metres in length and the weight of the implement shall not be greater than that of a sample dredge kept at the office of the Director.
- Shrimp dredge.
Amended by:
L.N. 58 of 1979.
- 21.** The use of the shrimp dredge shall only be permitted -
- Use of shrimp dredge.
- (a) from the 1st November to the 31st January; and
- (b) outside those localities where the use of the seine net is prohibited.
- 22.** It shall not be lawful to keep or use a long pole net without a licence for its use. The net of this implement shall have no meshes less than six point five millimetres square. This implement shall be subject generally to the conditions laid down for the shrimp dredge.
- Long pole net
(*kopp tal-lastā*).
Amended by:
L.N. 58 of 1979.
- 23.** The use of the cast net shall not be permitted inside bays and harbours and none of its meshes shall be less than twenty-five point five millimetres square.
- Cast net (*terrieħa*).
Amended by:
L.N. 58 of 1979.
- 24.** Trammels and gilling nets are not allowed to be used from the 15th February to the 15th July 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.
- Trammels and gilling nets.
- 25.** The Director may grant special permits for the use of trammels and gilling nets within the prohibited areas in case of the appearance of shoals of mature anchovies, sardines, mackerel, bonitos or any other pelagic fish. The permit shall specify the exact type of the net to be used for this purpose.
- Special permits.
- 26.** The fishing positions used in the *kannizzati* fishery shall be allocated each year by lot under such conditions as the Director may deem fit to impose and it shall not be lawful to lay any floats for this method of fishing without a licence.
- The *kannizzati* fishery.
- 27.** Notwithstanding the provision of regulation 9 of these Regulations, the licence referred to in regulation 26 shall be effective for the period beginning on the 1st August of the year of issue and ending on the 31st January immediately following such year, during which period no person other than the licensee shall be allowed to fish within a radius of one hundred and eighty metres from the floats of his own *kannizzati*.
- Validity of licence.
Amended by:
L.N. 48 of 1962;
L.N. 19 of 1964;
L.N. 80 of 1978;
L.N. 58 of 1979.
- 28.** It shall be lawful for the Director to limit the issue of licences referred to in regulation 26 to *bona fide* fishermen only.
- Limitation of licences.
- 29.** Permission may be granted for laying tunny nets round the coasts of these Islands under such conditions as the Director may deem fit to impose. The Director may also direct that no other kind of fishing shall be allowed in the locality where a tunny net is set.
- Tunny nets.

Nun buoys.
Amended by:
L.N. 58 of 1979.

30. At each end of the seaward extremity of any tunny net, there shall be moored a nun buoy of such size that its diameter at the water line is not less than one metre and the vertical height from its apex to the water line is one point five metres. Such buoy is to be surmounted by a cage or ball three hundred millimetres in diameter fitted on a staff, the vertical height from the top of the cage or ball to the water line to be not less than two point seven five metres.

Mooring of boat by
night.
Amended by:
L.N. 58 of 1979.

31. By night there shall be moored at the seaward shoot of every tunny net a boat showing in a vertical line one over the other one metre apart two bright lights so fixed that the upper light shall be not less than three point one metres from the water line and of such a character as to be visible on a dark night with a clear atmosphere all round the horizon at a distance of not less than two nautical miles.

Sites for laying
tunny nets.

32. Subject to a licence from the Director, the following sites are available for the laying of tunny nets:

- (a) Mellieha;
- (b) Ċirkewwa and Id-Delli; and
- (c) Għajn Tuffieha and Ġnejna.

Should anyone propose to lay a tunny net in any other locality, an application to that effect should be made to the Director who will decide as to whether the site may conveniently be leased for the purpose.

Ormeggios.

33. The Director is empowered to grant licences to fish on reserved sites (*irmiggi*).

Such licences may only be granted for sites within areas where the use of the seine net is prohibited and shall be valid up to the end of the year during which they are issued.

Application for
licence.

34. Applications for licences to fish on reserved sites shall be accompanied by a plan showing the site applied for and forwarded to the Director, who will decide as to whether the site applied for may conveniently be leased for the purpose.

Prohibition of
fishing.
Amended by:
L.N. 58 of 1979.

35. It shall not be lawful for persons other than the relative licensee to fish within a radius of eighteen metres from the floats of any licensed ormeggio.

Basket traps.
Amended by:
L.N. 58 of 1979.

36. The use of basket traps other than those mentioned in regulation 2 shall not be permitted within bays and harbours if the size of any of the meshes is less than twenty-five point five millimetres wide.

Minimum size
limits.

37. It shall not be lawful to sell or buy or be on land in possession of any fishes or cephalopods of a size less than is prescribed in regulation 38, with the exception of transparent goby (*makku*) and of whitebait (*srajdna* and *nemusa*), for which no size limit is prescribed.

38. The minimum sizes of fishes, measured overall, shall be according to the following schedule:

Schedule of minimum sizes.
Substituted by:
L.N. 58 of 1979.

	Minimum Size
<i>Voparella</i> and <i>Vopa</i> (Box boops)	90 millimetres
<i>Aržnella</i> and <i>Munqara</i> (<i>Smaris vulgaris</i>)	90 millimetres
<i>Trilja</i> or Red Mulletts (<i>Mullus barbatus</i> and <i>Mullus sarmuletus</i>) including <i>Triljetta</i>	100 millimetres
All other fishes except those mentioned in regulation 37	115 millimetres
Cephalopods, measured from the anterior side of the eye to the posterior end of the body:	
Cuttlefish (<i>siċċ</i>)	75 millimetres
Squid (<i>klamari</i>)	100 millimetres

39. It shall not be lawful to keep or use the implement known as "*hanżir*" without a licence for its use. *Hanżir.*

40. It shall not be lawful to keep or use the implement known as *ħgieġa* without a licence for its use. *ħgieġa.*

41. It shall not be lawful to dredge for molluscs except in such sections of the Valletta harbours as will be indicated for specified periods by the Director, nor to use for such dredgings any implements except those of a type as established by the same Director. *Dredge for molluscs.*

42. It shall not be lawful to land or expose for sale or otherwise be on land in possession of any bivalves, except stone borers (*tamar*), which shall be less than the gauge established for each species by the Director. *Bivalves.*

43. All fishers and sellers of molluscs shall be provided with the necessary gauges bearing the government mark. *Gauges.*

44. The type of gauges mentioned in the preceding two regulations shall be in accordance with the specimen kept at the office of the Police at the Custom House, Valletta, and such species of bivalves landed or exposed for sale shall not be less than the size limit shown on the gauge and marked respectively 1, 2, 3 and 4, as hereunder specified, namely: *Type of gauges.*

	No.
<i>Ostrea lamellosa</i> (<i>koċċli</i>)	4
<i>Venus verrucosa</i> (<i>gandoffli</i>)	3
<i>Dosinia exoleta</i> (<i>dajni</i>)	3
<i>Tapes decussatus</i> (<i>arzelli nigri</i>)	2
<i>Cardium rusticum</i> (<i>arzell tal-Marsa</i>)	1
<i>Tapes aureus</i> (<i>arzell trapanis</i>)	1
<i>Cardita sulcata</i> (<i>lewż</i>)	2
<i>Cardium paucicostatum</i> (<i>lewż tal-qoxra rqiqa</i>)	2
<i>Psanmobia vespartina</i> (<i>imxat</i>)	1
<i>Mytilus galloprovincialis</i> (<i>maskli</i>)	3

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| Grappler. | 45. The use of the grappler (<i>imqass</i>) for the use of raising bivalves will only be permitted under the same conditions as are imposed for the use of the dredge for molluscs. |
| Cultivation of shellfish and other fish.
<i>Amended by:
L.N. 154 of 1993.</i> | 46. The Director may reserve specified areas in the territorial waters of Malta for the cultivation of mussels and oysters and other fish, including finfish, molluscs and crustaceans, and may grant a concession for this purpose for a specified period on such terms as he may establish. |
| Sponge fishing. | 47. Fishing for sponges shall only be allowed under such conditions as the Director may deem fit to impose and no operations may be conducted without a licence. |
| Lights for fishing. | 48. The use of lights for fishing purposes shall not be permitted within bays and harbours. |
| Landing places. | 49. No fish may be brought ashore except at specified landing places notified as such by the Director. |
| Poisons and explosives. | 50. It shall not be lawful to use, for fishing purposes, poisons or any other substance which acts as poison on fish; and it shall not be lawful knowingly to collect from the sea or to expose for sale, or otherwise to be in possession of, any fish killed or caught by means of explosives or poisons or by any substance which acts as poison on fish. |
| Offences.
Cap. 9. | 51. Besides the punishments established by the Criminal Code for contraventions, any person who, not being guilty of a more serious offence, contravenes the prohibition laid down in the regulation 50, shall, on conviction, have his fish confiscated. |
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