

## Illegal Hunting Activity Guidance – Spring 2017

<b>Species and Quotas</b>	
It is illegal to: <b>Shoot at, injure or kill</b> a protected species <b>Hunt over allowed quota</b> of birds which can be hunted	
<b>Bird species which can be hunted:</b>	Common Quail
<b>Protected species which cannot be hunted:</b>	All other bird species are protected including the Turtle Dove
<b>Quotas:</b>	National hunting bag limit: 5,000 Quail Daily quota: 5 Quail per hunter Seasonal quota: 10 Quail per hunter  Each bird caught has to be reported to the authorities. When a quota is reached it means that the hunter has to stop hunting. Note that a shotgun out of its case is considered as still hunting.

<b>Timing</b>	
<b>Permitted hours:</b>	From 2 hours before sunrise (i.e. circa 4:30am) until 12pm, Monday to Sunday
<b>Season:</b>	Open season: 25 <sup>th</sup> March to 14 <sup>th</sup> April 2017

<b>Prohibited Locations</b>	
It is illegal to hunt or carry a gun:	
<b>In protected areas and surroundings</b>	These include Foresta 2000, Għadira Nature Reserve and Mellieħa Bay, Is-Simar Nature Reserve, Is-Salina Nature Reserve and Kennedy Grove, Buskett Gardens, Ta' Qali, Marsaxlokk Salt Marsh
<b>On protected islands</b>	Filfla, St Paul's Island, Comino and Cominotto, Manoel Island, Fungus Rock off Gozo
<b>Within 200m of an inhabited area, the airport and heliport</b>	An area with inhabited or inhabitable buildings Malta International Airport, and heliport on Gozo
<b>Within 50m of a main road or radio station</b>	Eg radio station on Dingli Cliffs A main road is a main thoroughfare. Roads where buses pass are considered main roads. E.g. main road along Dingli cliffs
<b>From a vehicle</b>	
<b>On or within 50m of sandy beaches</b>	Għadira bay, Għajn Tuffieħa bay, Paradise Bay, Golden Bay. Other small sandy beaches on Malta and Gozo
<b>In cemeteries, public gardens, sports grounds, Armed Forces of Malta property</b>	Or within 50m of these

Certain <b>Gozo sites</b>	Ta' Ċenċ Cliffs, il-Qawra, Għammar Hill
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<b>Guns</b>	
It is illegal to:	
Use or possess a <b>modified shotgun</b>	Shotguns that can fire more than 3 shots in succession
Use or possess other <b>guns capable of holding more than 2 shots at a time</b>	Including semi-automatic and automatic weapons
<b>Carry a gun or ammunition</b> out of its case during <b>non-permitted hours</b>	Earlier than 2 hours before sunrise After 12pm (midday)
<b>Carry a gun or ammunition</b> out of its case at a <b>prohibited location</b>	See Prohibited Locations section

<b>Other Methods</b>	
It is illegal to:	
Use <b>electronic callers</b>	Luring in birds using pre-recorded bird calls
<b>Use decoy birds of protected species, or birds which are blind or mutilated</b>	Any species other than Common Quail is protected.
Use any method of <b>trapping or live capture of birds</b>	Any trapping is illegal in spring. Includes using nets on the ground, cage traps, vertical nets, hooks or snares etc
<b>Trespass</b>	Hunting on private land without the owner's permission