Restricted Area between “Ponta ta’ l-Ahrax” and “Dahlet ix-Xilep”

The Ports and Yachting Directorate, Malta Transport notifies that as part of an EU LIFE project, aimed at protecting the Yelkouan Shearwaters (GARNIJA), seabirds that breed on cliffs, a restricted area is established. One such breeding area is located at “Rдум tal-Madonna” on the cliffs between il-Ponta ta’ l-Ahrax and Dahlet ix-Xilep. The “Rдум tal-Madonna” breeding colony has been designated as a “Special Protection Area” because Malta has 10% of the world’s population of Yelkouan Shearwaters and is internationally important for these birds. Light and noise can easily disturb the birds and cause them to desert the colony.

The buffer zone to the “Special Protection Area (SPA)” (about 1.1 Nautical Mile from shore) lies between the following imaginary points and the intermediate coastline, as shown on attached chart 1:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>LATITUDE (N)</th>
<th>LONGITUDE (E)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>(A) 35°59’.268</td>
<td>14°22’.574</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(B) 35°59’.231</td>
<td>14°23’.759</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(C) 36°00’.624</td>
<td>14°23’.088</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(D) 36°00’.874</td>
<td>14°22’.692</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(E) 35°59’.901</td>
<td>14°22’.057</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

In view of the above Masters of all vessels and craft are to adhere to the following conduct while transiting the area all year round

Lights, other than lights prescribed in the Convention on the International Regulations for Preventing Collisions at Sea, 1972 (COLREGs) have to be switched off and no loud noise, other than sound signals prescribed in the Convention on the International Regulations for Preventing Collisions at Sea, 1972 (COLREGs), from vessels is allowed whilst moving along this stretch of coast.
Pleasure cruises operating as “Boat Parties” are obliged to follow the above guideline and switch off all lights and music while passing in the indicated area or otherwise keep clear from the buffer zone to the SPA.

The letting off of petards and other fireworks from sea is not allowed in the buffer zone to the SPA all year round.

The buffer zone to the SPA is a “no stopping zone” for all vessels other than vessels carrying out fishing activities.

Fishing activities in the area using strong lights (lampara etc) are prohibited in line with Art.4 of the Fishery Regulations (SL425.01) and Council Regulation (EC) No 1967/2006 concerning management.

Further to the above, the Ports and Yachting Directorate, Malta Transport notifies mariners that as part of the LIFE Arċipelagu Garnija project, the Environment and Resources Authority (ERA) has established a number of restrictions, in line with
- the Birds Directive (Directive 2009/147/EC) transposed into Maltese legislation through the Conservation of Wild Birds Regulations (S.L. 549.42)

As such, the area enclosed by the imaginary line X – Y and the intermediate coastline, shown hatched red on attached chart 2, while all conditions mentioned above apply, no anchoring except for fishing and diving vessels is permitted. Maximum speed 3 knots.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>LATITUDE (N)</th>
<th>LONGITUDE (E)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>(X) 35°59’.584</td>
<td>14°22’.339</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(Y) 35°59’.539</td>
<td>14°23’.361</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Notice to Mariners No. 02 of 2010 of Transport Malta is hereby CANCELLED.

Charts Affected:  **BA 211A, 2538, 2537, 194**
Chart 2

All times.
All year round and at all times.
Speed 3 knots. Maximum speed 3 knots.
Comply with local authorities' instructions.
Fishing and diving prohibited.
Stopping is only allowed for emergency services.
No other vessels are permitted to enter.
No vessels are permitted to enter.
No vessels are permitted to enter.

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