1. BASIC INFORMATION

1.1. Project Number: Project 05 of the 2002 National Pre-accession Programme for Malta

1.2. Twinning Number: MT2002/IB-TL-AG-03

1.3. Title: Strengthening of Fisheries Monitoring and Control in Malta

1.4. Sector: Agriculture

1.5. Location: Department of Fisheries and Aquaculture, Malta

2. OBJECTIVES

2.1. Overall Objective

To strengthen the administrative capacity of the Department of Fisheries and Aquaculture to fulfil its obligations under the *acquis*.

2.2. Immediate objectives

- To strengthen the fisheries administration through training.
- To enable the Department to implement the *Common Fisheries Policy* in the field of control and enforcement.
- To prepare for the implementation of structural programmes in the fisheries sector.
- To establish a continuous Vessel Monitoring System (VMS) using satellite tracking in order to:
  - control fishing vessels movements;
  - collect data on fishing vessels activities at sea.
- To create the basis for a system of collecting and processing statistical data concerning fisheries.
- To procure Department with computer equipment and proper software.
2.3. Accession Partnership and NPAA Priority

Accession Partnership

The Department of Fisheries and Aquaculture already acts as a Fisheries Monitoring Centre. This aspect of its services will be upgraded by the fourth quarter of 2002 to carry out the activities required by the Acquis in this area.

NPAA

Establish a Fisheries Monitoring Centre by end 2002, to be staffed by suitably trained personnel.

3. DESCRIPTION

3.1. Background and justification

The fishing industry in Malta is relatively small and largely oriented towards pelagic species. However, at local level, the social importance of fisheries far outweighs their economic output. This is due to the small-scale and traditional nature of local fisheries, and to their role in supplying valuable food items.

The offshore aquaculture industry has been developed within the tight constraints of a National Aquaculture Plan and policy guidelines that ensure environmental protection and sustainable development. Aquaculture is essentially based on large-scale commercial offshore units employing modern technology. The cost of producing farmed fish is still relatively high. The aquaculture production – which reached 1950 tons in 1998 – is almost entirely exported (95%).

Under local legislation, the only wholesale fishmarket in Malta is under the authority of the Fisheries Department. Fish are sold through public auction, which is carried out by middlemen and the marketing supervision of fisheries officers. Sales are usually on credit and the Fisheries Department collects the money due to the fishermen. The fish bought wholesale is marketed by 180 registered fish vendors, each of which has an exclusive marketing zone. The number of modern fish shops is increasing throughout the country.

The Maltese fishing industry is facing a number of problems, including the very hard work associated with lack of deck hands. The younger generation prefers less arduous jobs on land which guarantee a steady income. The only boats which are still economically viable are those entirely owned and manned by families with a fishing tradition. In this respect, aquaculture might help the fishing to a considerable extent, especially if a number of fishermen become involved in aquaculture, thus ensuring a steady income.

The Department of Fisheries and Aquaculture is responsible for issuing fishing permits. Through the issue of licences, the Department can collect valuable data on the sites assigned to fishermen, information on special permission to fish in restricted areas, and descriptions of the type of fishing gears used. Fishing sites for lampuka fishing (dolphinfish) are allocated by lots. The Department of Aquaculture and Fisheries also collects fisheries data.
The Department of Fisheries and Aquaculture is actively involved in fisheries management. Measures for the development, regulation and management of fisheries include:

- licensing of vessels, gear and personnel;
- strict control on the allocation of fishing grounds e.g. for dolphin fish;
- administration of a scheme for fresh and frozen fish imports, linked with sales of local fish;
- development of a sizeable offshore aquaculture industry to relieve pressure on wild fisheries;
- direct assistance and support to fishermen (gear and/or craft improvement, infrastructure maintenance, etc.);
- estimate of catches and fishing effort;
- maintenance of a fishing vessel register.

Malta has participated in various conventions on fisheries management and conservation of marine resources, such as UNCLOS, Code of Conduct for responsible Fishing, etc. As a consequence, Maltese fisheries legislation has been able to keep up with current techniques on fisheries management and conservation strategies.

The Department is an active member of the COPEMED (FAO) Project. It is currently contributing to research projects related to tuna and artisan fisheries, and is involved in a sampling network for the Western Mediterranean Region. The National Aquaculture Centre of the Department of Fisheries and Aquaculture is focusing on research and development programmes in collaboration with foreign institutions and companies. Immunisation and immunostimulation experiments are carried out at the Centre in conjunction with pathology research. Research on nutrition and hatchery technology is also being carried out.

### 3.2. Linked activities

- A system of collecting and processing statistical data concerning fisheries has been created. The system shall meet requirements of the *Common Fisheries Policy* and the statistics shall cover catches and landings. International Trade shall be covered by CAP unit at customs. Within this programme it is planned to provide the Department with computer equipment and proper software. The system is expected to be fully operational by the end of 2002.

- Preparing of documentation and beginning of VMS ground station building is planned. Building has been identified and Government funds have been allocated.

- The installation of satellite transmitters (blue boxes) on vessels of the length of 24 meters and over is planned to be completed by the end of 2001.

- Establishment of Catch & Effort Data Collection Scheme, partially funded by COPEMED (FAO) and Malta Government.

- Training of the first Fisheries Protection Officers started. The training consists of Higher National Diplomas in Fisheries Sciences covering a two-year period and the first graduates are expected in October 2002. Funding provided by COPEMED (FAO)/Plymouth University (25%) and the Malta Government (75%).
– Recruitment of trained officers will take place in the final quarter of 2002, and in 2004.

– Establishment of Electronified Fishing Fleet Register I partially funded by COPEMED (FAO) and Malta Government.

– A new strategy for the fisheries sector will be finalised by the first quarter of 2002. The strategy will include a multi-annual guidance programme for the fishing fleet and the management programme for the conservation area. This strategy will enable Malta to benefit from structural fund financing after accession.

– The Fisheries Conservation Management Act was adopted by Parliament in January 2001 and entered into force in June 2001. The Act conforms with the Community’s basic fisheries legislation on management of resources and control. Subsidiary legislation which will cover all aspects of the acquis such as the collection of data, licensing of fishermen, maintenance of fleet register and submission of data to Eurostat will be finalised by the IVth quarter of 2001. Fishing Gear subsidiary legislation is expected to be adopted by IVth quarter of 2002.

3.3. Results

– Fisheries administration adequately strengthened, trained and well equipped.

– Satellite VMS implemented.

– A second round of HND courses.

– Strengthened capacity of the Fisheries Monitoring Centre to compile statistics in line with EU regulations.

– Catches control more effective.

– Common Fisheries Policy requirements achieved.

3.4. Activities

The project aims at strengthening the Fisheries Monitoring Centre.

– European expertise and training in the enforcement and compliance of the Regulations contained within the fisheries acquis. This activity will be implemented through a Twinning Light.

– Training of Fisheries Protection Officers: second round of Higher National Diplomas in Fisheries Sciences (HND courses) October 2002 – June 2004 (this will include the costs associated with the foreign and local experts delivering the lectures);

– Training of officials on VMS and VHF systems.

– Further training (hands-on) in a Member State Statistical Unit.

– The drawing up of technical specifications for the procurement of the equipment.
Procurement of following equipment is required:

- radio-base with recording possibilities;
- VMS;
- front end software and hardware;
- PCs for new recruits.

4. INSTITUTIONAL FRAMEWORK

The Department of Fisheries and Aquaculture within the Ministry for Agriculture and Fisheries is the main institution responsible for implementation of Malta’s fisheries policy. At present the Department is responsible for:

- The provision of marketing facilities.
- The regulation of marketing processes.
- Assistance in the institutional/logistical operation and management of the markets.
- The management of the fleet register and the registration of professional and amateur fishermen, fish hawkers and vendors, fish commissioners, agents and auctioneers.
- The management of the lampuki traditional fishery, tuna fishery and others.
- The licensing of fishing gear and the implementation of various conservation measures.
- The running of the Malta Centre for Fisheries Sciences.
- The monitoring of Malta Centre for Fisheries Sciences.
- Export certification and import regulation.

Other institutions involved include the Malta Maritime Authority (management of ports and berthing facilities and the international mercantile vessel register), the Armed Forces of Malta (patrol of the Maltese Exclusive Fishing Zone and coastal areas), the Environment Protection Department at the Ministry of Environment (manages marine parks and reserves, protects endangered species and monitors marine pollution), the Department of Health at the Ministry of Health and the Department of Veterinary services within the Ministry for Agriculture and Fisheries (public health issues and the functioning of Border Inspection Points).

At present the Department of Fisheries and Aquaculture is headed by a Director and is composed of four sections: the Malta Centre for Fisheries Sciences, Administration, Fisheries Section (Valletta) and the Gozo Branch. The staff complement is 54 consisting of the Director, 6 Scientific staff, 8 Fisheries Protection Officers and support staff.
5. DETAILED BUDGET (EUROS)

<table>
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<th>Components</th>
<th>EU Support</th>
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<td>Training</td>
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<td>TOTAL</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Parallel co-financing from Malta funds is being made available under linked activities.

6. IMPLEMENTATION ARRANGEMENTS

6.1. Implementing Authority

Department of Fisheries and Aquaculture

Contact person: Dr. Anthony Gruppetta (Director)
Department of Fisheries and Aquaculture
Fort San Lucjan
Marsaxlokk
E-mail: anthony.s.gruppetta@magnet.mt

Tel: 00356 658863, 655525
Fax: 00356 659380

6.2. Twinning Light

The Institution Building component will be implemented through a twinning light arrangement following the specific Commission’s guidelines “Procedures for twinning light”.

6.3. Non-standards aspects

None.

6.4. Contracts

Contracts for supplies, works and services will be concluded in accordance with the procedures laid down in the “Practical guide to EC external aid”.

7. IMPLEMENTATION SCHEDULE

Start of tendering/call for proposals: April 2002

Start of project activity: June 2002

Project completion: December 2004
8. **EQUAL OPPORTUNITY**

The Department of Fisheries and Aquaculture is an equal opportunity employer.

9. **ENVIRONMENT**

The strengthening of Fisheries monitoring and control will have a positive impact on the marine environment.

10. **RATES OF RETURN**

Not applicable.

11. **INVESTMENT CRITERIA**

11.1. **Catalytic Effect**

The EU contribution will have an important effect in helping to act as a catalyst for the strengthening of the Department of Fisheries and Aquaculture’s administrative capacity, required in order to fulfil its obligations under the Acquis.

11.2. **Co-finance**

Not applicable.

11.3. **Additionality**

No other financiers will be displaced by the EU intervention.

11.4. **Readiness**

A start has already been made through Malta Government funds in reinforcing the Department’s capacity by procurement of equipment, introduction of new IT systems and training courses. The Fisheries Conservation Management Act, which conforms with European Union fisheries legislation on management of resources and control entered into force in June 2001.

11.5. **Sustainability**

Not applicable.

11.6. **Competition**

Services and equipment will be procured in line with EU regulations.
12. **CONDITIONALITY**

Availability of human resources.

The provision of training for Fisheries Protection Officers should be conditional to their attachment to the Department of Fisheries and Aquaculture in accordance with the usual Maltese government rules.

**ANNEXES**

I  Logframe planning matrix  
II Implementation time schedule  
III Cumulative contracting and disbursement schedule
# LOGFRAME PLANNING MATRIX - STRENGTHENING OF FISHERIES MONITORING AND CONTROL IN MALTA

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Project Number: Project 05 of the 2002 National Pre-accession Programme for Malta</th>
<th>Contracting Period Expires: 30 April 2004</th>
<th>Disbursement Period Expires: 30 April 2005</th>
<th>Total Budget: 430,000</th>
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## Wider Objectives

To strengthen the administrative capacity of the Department of Fisheries and Aquaculture to fulfil its obligations under the Acquis.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Indicators of Achievement</th>
<th>Sources of Information</th>
<th>Assumptions and Risks</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Legal background, organisation and functioning scheme fully compliant with EU standards</td>
<td>EU-Expert’s analysis, reports and evaluations, Annual Departmental report</td>
<td>Adequate human resources</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## Immediate Objectives

- To strengthen the fisheries administration through training.
- To enable the Department to implement the Common Fisheries Policy in the field of control and enforcement.
- To prepare for the implementation of structural programmes in the fisheries sector.
- To establish a continuous Vessel Monitoring System (VMS) using satellite tracking.
- To create the basis for a system of collecting and processing statistical data concerning fisheries.
- To procure computer equipment and computer software.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Indicators of Achievement</th>
<th>Sources of Information</th>
<th>Assumptions and Risks</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Trained staff;</td>
<td>Evaluation reports, Regular EU reports</td>
<td>Implementation of EU standards and adjusting them to needs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Equipment in place and in use;</td>
<td>EU-Expertise (analysis and assessments)</td>
<td>Readiness to financial commitments and relevant procedures of institutions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Plans for structural programmes drawn up;</td>
<td>Reports from current statutory works of the Fisheries Department</td>
<td>Fishermen’s willingness to adopt proposed solutions</td>
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<tr>
<td>Vessel Monitoring System and national extension started;</td>
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<tr>
<td>New fisheries statistics organised.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Results</td>
<td>Indicators of Achievement</td>
<td>Sources of Information</td>
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<td>------------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fisheries administration adequately strengthened, trained and well equipped.</td>
<td>Department of Fisheries functioning properly;</td>
<td>Reports and evaluations of a long-term expert;</td>
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<tr>
<td>Satellite VMS implemented.</td>
<td>Equipment for VMS procured (purchased);</td>
<td>Control tests carried at the end of training;</td>
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<tr>
<td>Strengthened capacity of the Fisheries Monitoring Centre to compile statistics in line with EU regulations.</td>
<td>Computer hardware and software purchased;</td>
<td>EU inspections results; Project reports; Project monitoring reports; Questionnaires of training participants.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Common Fisheries Policy requirement achieved.</td>
<td>Training in fisheries statistics organised.</td>
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ANNEX II

IMPLEMENTATION TIME SCHEDULE

STRENGTHENING OF FISHERIES MONITORING AND CONTROL IN MALTA

Project 05 of the 2002 National Pre-accession Programme for Malta

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D = DESIGN
T = TENDERING AND CONTRACTING
I = IMPLEMENTATION
C = CLOSURE
### ANNEX III

**CUMULATIVE CONTRACTING AND DISBURSEMENT SCHEDULE OF EU FUNDING**

**STRENGTHENING OF FISHERIES MONITORING AND CONTROL IN MALTA**

Project 05 of the 2002 National Pre-accession Programme for Malta

(‘000 Euros)

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