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PORTS AND YACHTING DIRECTORATE

LOCAL NOTICE TO MARINERS NO 61 of 2012

Our Ref: TM/PYD/01/12

10 August 2012

Protection of Turtle Hatchlings at Gnejna Bay

The Ports and Yachting Directorate, Transport Malta notifies that the Malta Environment and Planning Authority (MEPA) jointly with the Fisheries Department notify that within the coming three (3) weeks and with a further short notice, boat owners would be notified that operating a craft within and in the adjacent areas to Gnejna will be prohibited at particular hours when and if the turtles hatch, since they swim out to sea when they hatch and otherwise they risk being killed.

A part of the swimmers zone (line with floats) is being temporarily removed during this period for the above mentioned reason. Boat owners should maintain same clearance distance as if the demarcation line was still in place.

The general public is notified that it is illegal to disturb and/or catch these turtle hatchlings. If caught they would die in a closed environment.

Fishermen who accidentally catch (those just swimming freely should be left alone) these hatchlings are asked to put these in adequate containers with a small amount of sea water, put it in the shade and call MEPA on 99210404 or 99381811.

Mariners and bathers are instructed to cooperate with MEPA personnel and instructions that may be issued at short notice.

Chart affected 2538