



PORTS AND YACHTING DIRECTORATE



Transport Malta

LOCAL NOTICE TO MARINERS No 139 of 2022

Our Ref: **TM/PYD/0001/22**

18 August 2022

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Scuttling of the MT Hephaestus at Xatt L-Aħmar – Gozo

The Ports and Yachting Directorate, Transport Malta, notifies mariners that the MT “Hephaestus” is to be scuttled off Xatt L-Aħmar – Gozo on Thursday 25th August 2022, with an alternative date on Friday 26th August 2022.

Preparatory works will be carried out on Wednesday 24th August 2022 by the vessels “Seabuffalo” and “Seawolf II”. The works will involve the laying of 2 sinkers for special mark navigational aids with lights, in the following positions. Diving will not be permitted on the wreck MV Cominoland between 1100LT and 1600LT. All divers to stay clear of the area.

Latitude (N)	Longitude (E)
36° 01'.100	014° 17'.350
36° 00'.950	014° 17'.250

On Thursday 25th August 2022 the MT “Hephaestus” will be towed by the tug “Seabuffalo” and escorted by the tug “Seawolf II” from Cassar Shipyard in the Grand Harbour to Xatt L-Aħmar in Gozo, where it will be scuttled in the following position, as seen on the attached chart.

Latitude (N)	Longitude (E)
36° 01'.000	014° 17'.300

ONLY authorised vessels will be permitted within the 200m safety zone from the scuttling position. NO DIVING is permitted off the whole of Xatt L-Aħmar on Thursday 25th August 2022 from 1100LT onwards, until the area has been deemed safe to dive.

Mariners are advised to keep a sharp lookout and navigate with extreme caution and at slow speed (no wake) when the towed vessel is spotted, and they are to keep a safety distance of 200m throughout the towing and scuttling operation.

They are to cooperate with the organisers and to comply with any instructions issued on VHF channel 12 and/or 16 by Valletta VTS and by any enforcement officials on site.

Charts affected: **BA 177, 2537, 2538, 211**

