

G 5.3 FISHING AND AQUACULTURE

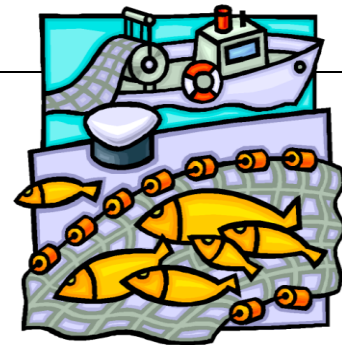


G5.3.1

The development of this topic should be carried out in general terms. This topic should be taught without too many details on how to fish for *lampuki*.

Research: Etienne Vella / Thanks: Dept. of Fisheries and Aquaculture

Malta is surrounded by the Mediterranean Sea, and so, fishing was always important for the Maltese people. In Malta, there are full-time fishermen (fishing is their only job), but there are many more part-time fishermen (fishing is not their only job).



A. The fisherman's job starts on land

- ❖ He cleans, repairs and paints the fishing boat every season to keep it in the best condition possible. So that it will not be dangerous.
- ❖ He removes everything that gets stuck in the nets and traps, after each fishing trip.

He repairs any damage which happens to the boat.

- ❖ He prepares the fish-food he uses whilst fishing.
- ❖ He goes to sell the fish he catches.



Worth mentioning is that full-time fishermen are constantly decreasing. In fact, there are more 'part-time' fishermen than 'full-time' ones. Mostly, however, we find those fishermen who just go fishing as a hobby.

Full-time fishermen are those whose actual job is fishing. Part-time fishermen are those who also have another job besides fishing.

There are many reasons why full-time fishermen are decreasing. These include:

- ❖ There are many risks at sea, such as bad weather and storms that fishermen must deal with.
- ❖ This is a very tough job.
- ❖ Fishermen spend whole days separated from their families.
- ❖ Sometimes, after spending whole days at sea, the catch might not be good and so, the fishermen do not earn enough money.
- ❖ Catches are constantly declining, and, for this reason, the profits/earnings fishermen make are also decreasing, while their expenses are increasing.
- ❖ Another problem is that marine machine equipment, (such as GPS and Radar), is very expensive and even the fishing boat itself requires a lot of money to keep it in good condition.



- ❖ Another problem Maltese fishermen must face is the competition with foreign Italian and Tunisian fishermen, who could be much better equipped for fishing than the Maltese.

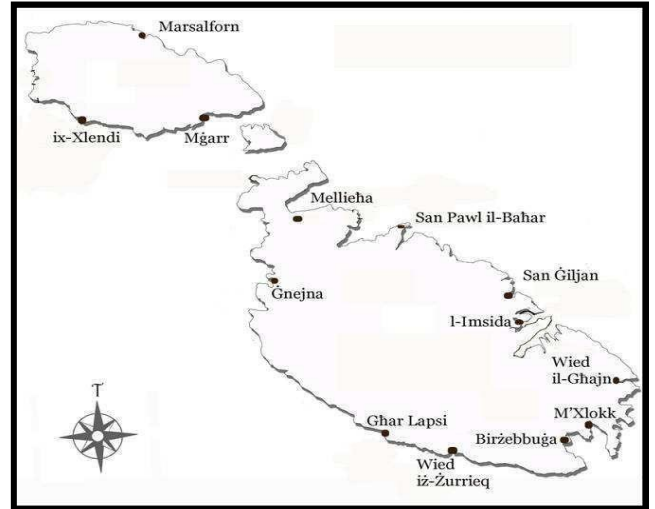
B. Fishing Villages

The main villages for fishing in Malta are:

- ❖ Marsaxlokk
- ❖ St. Paul's Bay
- ❖ Żurrieq

The main villages for fishing in Gozo are:

- ❖ Mgarr
- ❖ Marsalforn



C. Fish

The main types of fish caught in our country are:

dolphinfish

tuna

swordfish

bogue

mackerel

The fish that is caught is taken to the **fish-market (pixkerija)** which is found in Marsa. From the fish market, the fish is then taken to be sold in fish shops (fishmongers), restaurants and hotels.



The sea surrounding the Maltese Islands is divided in different parts. Every fisherman goes fishing in his area - called 'rimja' in Maltese.

D. Fishing Boats

The most common sea boats used by Maltese fishermen are:



The 'Luzzu'

A 'luzzu' in the bay of Marsaxlokk.

Note that the front and rear parts of the 'luzzu' come to a point.

The 'Kajjikk'

The 'kajjikk' is like the 'luzzu' but note that the rear part is flat.



The 'Skuna'

The 'skuna' is a large boat equipped for fishing for longer periods; it can cope better with bad weather. For this reason, fishermen use this when they go fishing for a long period of time.

