

SUPERINTENDENCE OF CULTURAL HERITAGE

Notice

Obligation to Report Traditional Boats Abandoned or Deteriorating on the Coast



SOVRINTENDENZA
TAL-PATRIMONJU KULTURALI
SUPERINTENDENCE OF CULTURAL HERITAGE

The Superintendence of Cultural Heritage (SCH) hereby notifies all Local Councils, Co-Operatives, NGOs and Voluntary Organisations with access to the Coastline of their **obligation to inform the SCH** of any *traditional seacraft*, including but not limited to *luzzijiet, frejgatini, firilli, kajjikki, dghajjes tal-pass, dghajjes tal-latini* and other vernacular craft such as *regatta craft, wejla, xieru* and *bimbu*, found **abandoned, derelict, or in a state of deterioration** along the coastline, foreshore, or in adjoining public spaces.

Traditional Maltese boats are afforded protection through the general provisions of the Cultural Heritage Act (CAP 445). Any intervention affecting their condition, including removal, relocation, disposal, or destruction, **requires prior notification to and guidance and final clearance from the SCH.**

Upon identifying such vessels, Local Councils are required to:

1. **Notify the Superintendence of Cultural Heritage immediately**, providing the precise location (GPS coordinates where possible), photographs, and a brief description of the seacraft's condition.
2. **Refrain from removing or disposing of the seacraft** until the Superintendence of Cultural Heritage issues written direction regarding assessment, safeguarding, or any authorised action.
3. **Provide the Superintendence of Cultural Heritage officers** with access for inspection, documentation, and determination of cultural value.
4. **Ensure interim safeguarding** to prevent further deterioration, vandalism, or displacement before assessment.

Failure to comply with the obligations outlined above may be subject to procedures in terms of Article 70 of the Cultural Heritage Act since such action would compromise the protection of nationally significant maritime heritage.

All communication related to abandoned or deteriorating traditional boats should be addressed to the Superintendence of Cultural Heritage at:

Email: info.sch@gov.mt **cc:ing** movables.sch@gov.mt **Telephone:** +356 23950000

The SCH appreciates the cooperation of all Local Councils in safeguarding Malta's maritime heritage and ensuring that traditional vessels, an irreplaceable part of our cultural landscape, are protected for present and future generations.

Superintendence of Cultural Heritage

