

Pierre Balzan
Seaculture Ltd.
Melita Marine Group
Zejtun

Date: 4th September 2025
Our Ref: EA/00026/20

Dear Sir/Madam,

PA Reference no.: Tracking Number: 283200
Project Title: Fish Rearing Open Sea Facility
Location: Site at sea, 35°44'14.47°N, 14°44'49.87°E, Offshore Marsaxlokk

Reference is made to the Project Description Statement (PDS) for the above captioned application which was referred directly to ERA on 5th August 2025.

Introduction

The proposal entails the establishment of an offshore large-scale fish farm located approximately 22km off the South-East coastline of Malta with a total footprint of around 90,000m², including four anchoring point at each corner of the platform. The site is also located within the marine Special Protection Area (SPA) MT0000108 known as Żona fil-Baħar fil-Lvant, designated under Government Notice No. 1311 of 2016, in accordance with the Flora, Fauna and Natural Habitats Protection Regulations (S.L. 549.44),

EIA Screening (S.L. 549.46)

The proposed development falls within the scope of the Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations (S.L. 549.46), notably in terms of Schedule I, Category II, Section 8.2.2.1 (*Aquaculture establishments for any type of aquatic organism (including fish farms, hatcheries, tuna pens, shellfish or crustacean farms, seaweed production units, or similar establishments), as well as extensions or modifications to an existing establishment, or any ancillary facilities, not covered by Category I*). In this regard, the proposal was also screened in terms of the EIA Regulations.

The screening (Annex I) concluded that the proposed development is likely to have a significant impact on the environment and therefore the submission of an EIA is required. This is to address the following likely impacts in terms light, noise, waste management, marine ecology, marine water and sediment quality.

Full details of the EIA process should be obtained from the EIA Regulations:
<https://legislation.mt/eli/sl/549.46/eng/pdf>.

In accordance with Regulation 15(2) of the EIA Regulations (S.L. 549.46), you are requested to confirm in writing, within 30 days of receipt of this letter, whether you wish to carry out the EIA and when you estimate it will be completed.

Appropriate Assessment Screening (S.L. 549.44)

The proposal is located within a Marine Special Protection Area (SPA) MT0000108 known as Żona fil-Baħar fil-Lvant, designated under Government Notice No. 1311 of 2016. In this instance, the proposal has been screened in terms of Regulation 19 of S.L. 549.44.

Screening (Annex I) concluded that impacts related to light and noise from the proposed development on *Calonectris diomedea* and *Hydrobates pelagicus* are uncertain, thus the proposed development requires the submission of an Appropriate Assessment (AA).

You may wish to note that ERA considers the eventual EIA and AA reports as public documents and will be made available for consultation purposes.

ERA will issue its final position and recommended way-forward, including any environmental conditions, following the outcome of the required assessments.

Yours faithfully,

Leonora D'Amato
Senior Environment Protection Officer
Environmental Assessment Unit
f/Director Regulatory Affairs

Disclaimer

The above comments are being issued without prejudice to any additional issues which are regulated by ERA through any relevant environmental permitting and, or compliance mechanisms, as well as to any environmental considerations that may be beyond the scope of the application under consideration.