



PUBLIC CONSULTATION BRIEF

on the

Conservation of Wild Birds (Falconry) (Amendment) Regulations, 2020

21/07/2020

The Wild Birds Regulation Unit invites stakeholders to submit comments and proposals in relation to the draft Conservation of Wild Birds (Falconry) (Amendment) Regulations, 2020. Comments and proposals are to be submitted via email to wildbirds@gov.mt by not later than 24th August 2020 at noon.

1. Background

Falconry, which comprises of a set of activities related to the rearing, training and flying of birds of prey, including for the purpose of hunting of quarry species, is a long standing traditional practice that dates back centuries. The European Union Birds Directive 2009/147/EC requires EU Member States to ensure "*that the practice of hunting, including falconry if practised, as carried on in accordance with the national measures in force, complies with the principles of wise use and ecologically balanced control of the species of birds concerned and that this practice is compatible as regards the population of these species, in particular migratory species, with the measures resulting from Article 2.*" In 2016, Falconry was nationally regularised through Subsidiary Legislation 549.106 Conservation of Wild Birds (Falconry) Regulations.

Falconry within the Majjistral Nature and History Park (S.L. 549.48) is currently permitted as follows:

During the open season, hunting of species listed in Schedule IIA of the Conservation of Wild Birds Regulations (S.L. 549.42) is permitted from two (2) hours before sunrise until two-thirty in the afternoon (2.30pm), except as follows:	
September, October, November and Spring hunting season (whenever a derogation is applied)	From two (2) hours before sunrise until 12.30pm
All Wednesdays during September, October, November and Spring hunting season (whenever a derogation is applied)	From two (2) hours before sunrise until ten o'clock (10.00am)
December and January	From two (2) hours before sunrise until ten o'clock (10.00am)

Public holidays between September and January and Public Holidays during Spring hunting (whenever a derogation is applied)	From two (2) hours before sunrise until ten o'clock (10.00am)
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2. Proposed legislative draft

The proposed legislative draft aims to include a proviso that specifies that the open season set out in sub-regulations 5(1) and 5(2) and their provisos of the Conservation of Wild Birds (Falconry) Regulations, shall also apply to the Majjistral Nature and History Park. The proposed legislative draft thus aims to allow falconry within the Majjistral Nature and History Park from two (2) hours before sunrise until two (2) hours after sunset from September to January of the following year.