

# Implementation of Marine Cadastre in Israel

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## SUMMARY

The first marine settlement block plans, designated as marine cadastre in Israel, were approved and signed as registered blocks in October 2011. This was the first milestone of implementing marine cadastre in Israel following and concluding preparatory work for a few years. Since then, additional 13 marine blocks have been fully registered and 13 are in an advanced stage before their final approval. This reflects a fast growing interest and various activities regarding the coastal and marine environment in Israel. Israel is a coastal state. The marine areas of Israel in the Mediterranean Sea include the Territorial Sea where it has full sovereignty and the Exclusive Economic Zone where it has partial sovereign rights. In recent years the Survey of Israel (SOI) launched a few relevant initiatives, including the following: coordinate based cadastre (CBC) projects, one of which included transformation of 60 land registration blocks to CBC along the coast line, 3D cadastre, and land-marine Spatial Data Infrastructure. SOI recently prepared a full series of hydrographic charts including the formal coast line to support the Law of Protection of the Coastal Environment. The rapidly developing activities regarding the search for gas and oil in the above-mentioned Israeli marine areas, and the important gas explorations, including the activities of developing a marine infrastructure for the conduction and distribution of the exploited gas under the responsibility of the Ministry of Energy and Water, play an important role in the development of the marine area. In addition, other ministries advance development plans in the marine area, including the Ministry of Agriculture, the Ministry of Interior, the Ministry of Transportation, among others. These requirements were considered before launching the marine cadastre initiative. The final settlement of a marine cadastre depends on the final delimitation of maritime boundaries between Israel and its neighbors. As long as these boundaries are not concluded and agreed upon, the block plans may cover the marine area except for the marginal blocks that border the international maritime boundaries. In December 2010 Israel and Cyprus agreed on the delimitation of their maritime boundary in the EEZ. This article elaborates on the above-mentioned situation and plans regarding a marine cadastre that will achieve a cadastral coverage over the sovereign area of Israel, including a description of its implementation in the approved marine settlement blocks as a result of cooperation between SOI and the Department of Registration and Land Settlement under the Ministry of Justice.