

R/V Bat Galim Report on Incidence with the Turkish Navy while working in the Exclusive Economic Zone of Cyprus

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I. The Research

Deep-tow magnetic study of the Herodotus Basin to investigate the influence and implications of post-accretion sedimentation on the thermal structure of the oceanic crust and its magnetization (Fig. 1). The research was led by the Department of Geological and Environmental Science, Ben Gurion University of the Negev, Beer Sheva, Israel

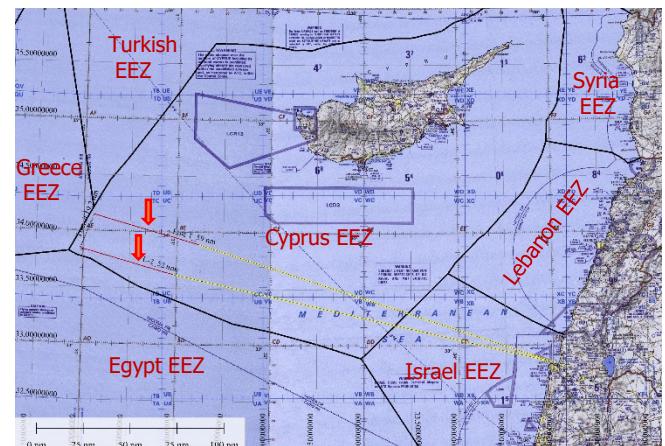


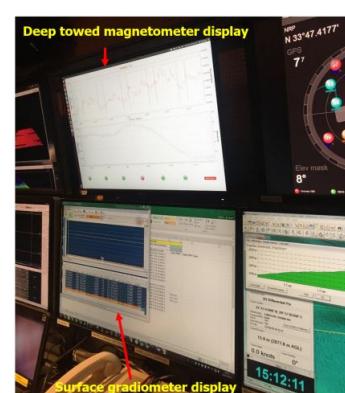
Fig. 1 Survey plan (red line & arrow). Official EEZ's in the E. Med. are shown in black

II. Methods

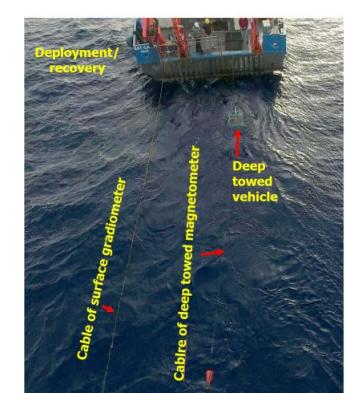
Deep-tow magnetic system that measure and display in real time magnetic field strength, depth, altitude, and CTD water properties data together with surface towed two sea surface total-field Overhauser sensors set up in a longitudinal gradiometer mode (Fig. 2).



Fig. 2 Deep-tow magnetic system



/ real time display



/ deploy / recover

III. The marine survey

Prior to the survey an official permit was issued by Cyprian authorities (Fig. 3), a representative from Cyprus Geological Survey was assigned to join us in the cruise and JRCC Larnaka has issued a Nav. Warning (Fig 3). The system was towed at an average speed of 1.8 kt and depth of 3050 to 2300 meters, controlled by onboard winch to maintain altitude of ~200 meters (on average) above the seafloor (Fig. 4)

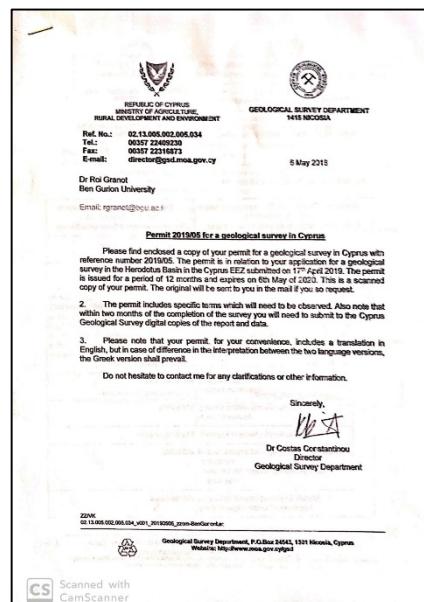
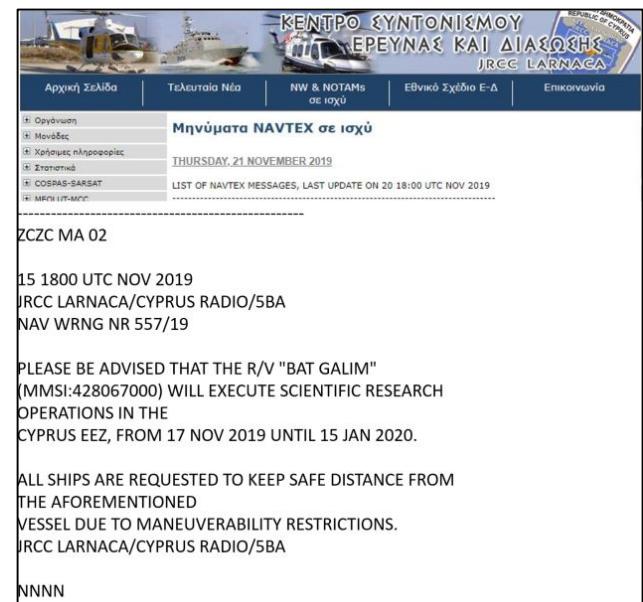


Fig. 3 Official permit from Cyprian Authorities



/ JRCC Larnaka Navigational warning

IV. The incidence

While in Cyprian waters a message was broadcast on Ch#16 every hours: “.. this is the Turkish Navy, we are responsible for this area and protect you against terrorists attacks please contact the Turkish navy through this channel or by phone #..... if you need any assistance”.

The message to R/V Bat Galim broadcasted on Nov. 18, 2019 at 20:40 GMT by the Turkish Warship was: “**This is a Turkish warship, you have entered the EEZ of Turkey we advise you not to continue**” (Fig. 4)

The Turkish warship threat caused us to altered our survey plan southward outside of their claimed EEZ and harmed our research planning and objectives. While magnetic surveying at 1.8 knots they have “shadowed” us for two days until we completed it.

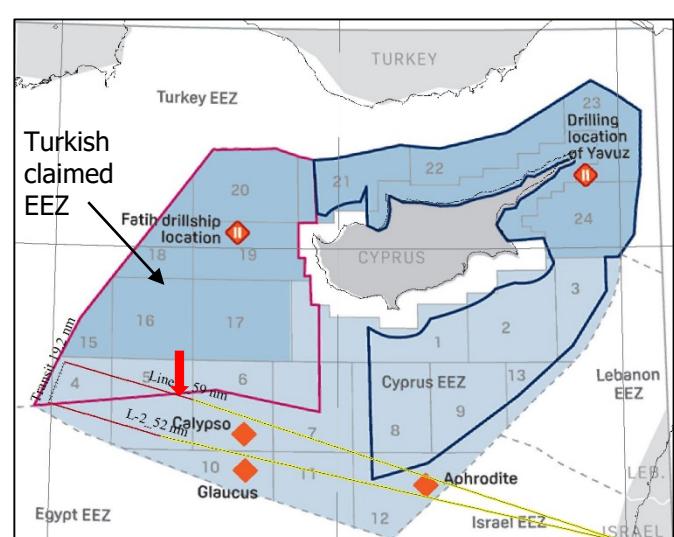


Fig. 4 The incidence with Turkish warship (red arrow). Note the claimed Turkish EEZ (red polygon).