

148.7 KMS. OF BALEARIC COASTLINE WAS RECLAIMED AS PUBLIC PROPERTY LAST YEAR

## Demarcation of the Menorcan coast to start in Es Mercadal

Owners of buildings constructed before 1988 in areas which are reclaimed will be granted a concession on the property for a maximum of sixty years

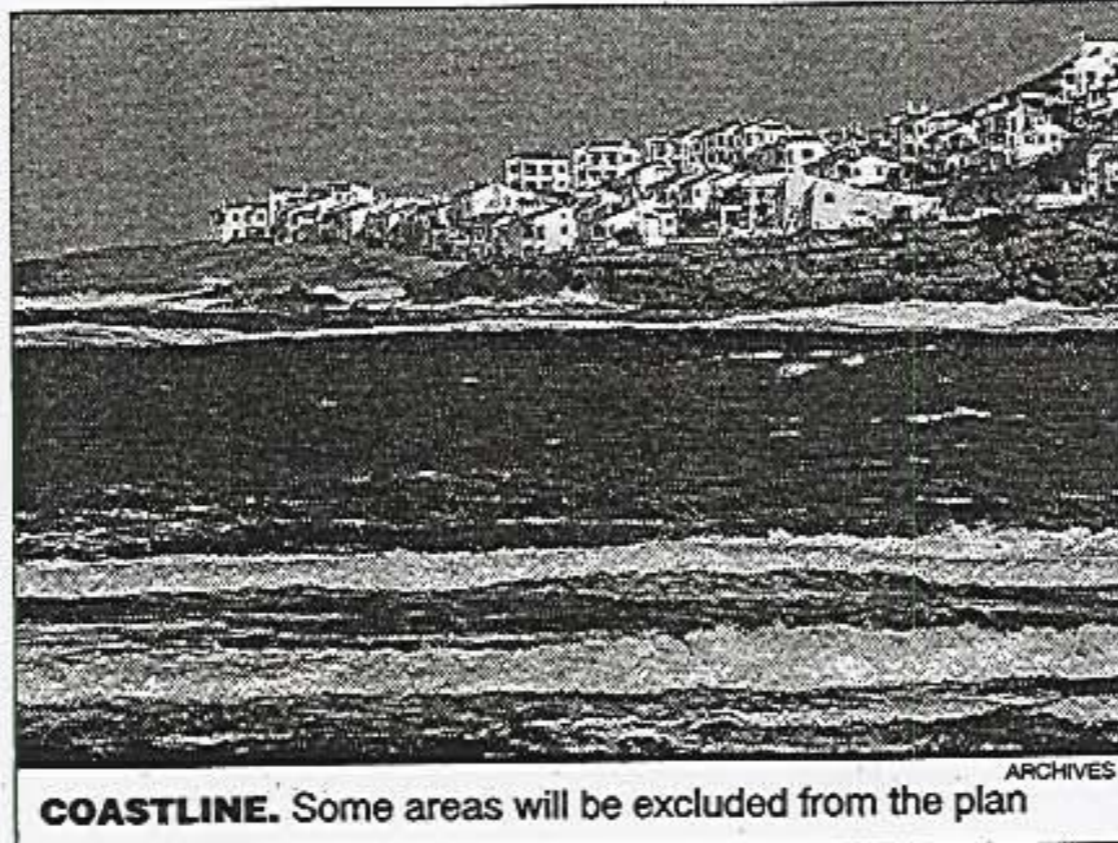
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The Coastal Authority, which is dependent on the Ministry of the Environment, has started work on the "Demarcation Plan" under which areas of sea and land will be reclaimed as public property (DPMT).

The first phase will involve the demarcation of the 84,146 metres of coastline in the district of Es Mercadal, followed by the Maó district which has 70 kilometres of coastline and then Ciutadella with 75. The emphasis will then move to Es Migjorn Gran (11 kilometres), Ferreries (12), Es Castell (10), Alaior (13) and, finally, Sant Lluís (17). The Coastal Authority's intention is that the demarcation of the whole of the island's 291 kilometres will be approved before the end of 2008.

The demarcation in Es Mercadal will affect dozens of property owners who now have just under a month to consult the plans and lodge any objections they may have. The Town Council will probably raise objections to the initial plan, although the



Mayor, Ramon Orfila, declined to comment until he has studied in detail the Coastal Authority's plan, which may exclude certain areas of some of the district's urbanisations, such as Son Parc, Arenal d'en Castell, Punta Grossa or Na Macaret.

Until such time as the demarcation has been completed, the Ministry of the Environment has ordered a halt in the granting of concessions and authorisations on land that is public pro-

perty or a protected area.

Once the whole of the island's coastline has been demarcated, with the exception of Son Bou and Cala en Bosc which have already been completed, the Coastal Authority will offer for tender the resulting work, which could involve the demolition of some buildings.

Sources at the Ministry of the Environment explained that if a building had been constructed after the Ley de Costas (Coastal

Law) came into force (1988) negotiations would take place for the purchase of the property or it could be subject to compulsory purchase. However, in the case of construction prior to the law, the owners would be granted a concession on the property for a period of 30 years, which could be extended by a further 30 years. After a maximum of 60 years they would have to leave the property so that the site could be returned to its natural state.

Last year the Ministry of the Environment, through the Coastal Authority, reclaimed 563.13 kilometres of the Spanish coast which is now classed as DPMT and brings the total so far demarcated to 6,066.65 kilometres. A large part of last year's operation involved the Balearic Islands where demarcation affected 148.70 kilometres.

Through the Demarcation Plan the Ministry is trying to delimit sections of the coast in areas classified as building land or potential building land and thus ensure that Town Planning plans are in accordance with the protection offered under the 1988 Coastal Law. ■

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