

## *Abstract*

# ***Shipwrecks from Malta's recent past and what these tell us***

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Recent intensive remote sensing surveys of the seabed continue to expand our knowledge about the underwater cultural heritage of the Maltese Islands. The primary objective of these surveys is to map Malta's underwater cultural assets so that they may be protected and managed according to local law and international conventions. However, through these surveys we are also catching glimpses of the islands' maritime past. Chronologically, this talk covers a period that is historically very well documented. Numerous aspects of the Knights and British periods have been studied, published and debated. Historical archaeology, on the other hand, remains relatively unexplored. Results from the aforementioned surveys provide a novel perspective for the study of trade and exchange in objects that formed an integral part of social life during these centuries.