Justice Ministry
promoting law for marine regions

Zehir Bitan

In recent months the Justice Ministry has been developing a law for regulating marine regions, intended to determine the legal status of certain areas that lie outside Israel's sovereign waters, in which natural resources can be utilized. The Ministry for the Environment, Sport and Tourism (MEST) and the Ministry for the Environment and Infrastructures (MENI) are participating in the draft of the law. The project, which is based on EU regulations, proposes that the proposed law be extended to marine areas currently managed by the Ministry of the Environment and Infrastructures (MENI) and will also make it possible to manage the marine environment on a regional basis.

The bill, whose final version is in preparation, stipulates that the region will be divided into two areas: one extending beyond Israel's territorial waters, and an outer strip that extends to a distance of 12 miles from the coast. Beyond that will be the exclusive economic zone, extending 200 miles out. According to the current proposal, Israel is permitted to exploit natural resources in these areas beyond its territorial waters.

The new bill is subject to EU regulations. Beyond its territorial waters, there will be a number of additional regulatory areas, including labor laws and laws pertaining to environmental protection and the extraction of natural resources. With regard to environmental protection, the Ministry of the Interior and the Ministry of the Environment and Infrastructures will be authorized to introduce new regulations that will further protect the environment.

The proposed law for regulating marine regions is intended to address the problem of environmental damage caused by activities in these areas. The Ministry of the Environment and Infrastructures plans to establish new regulations that will be designed to protect the marine environment and its resources.

Inna Tahan

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