

Energy Institute London
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**‘Overlapping maritime claims and tensions in the Eastern
Mediterranean Sea’**

Nicholas A. Ioannides (PhD)
International law expert

Introduction

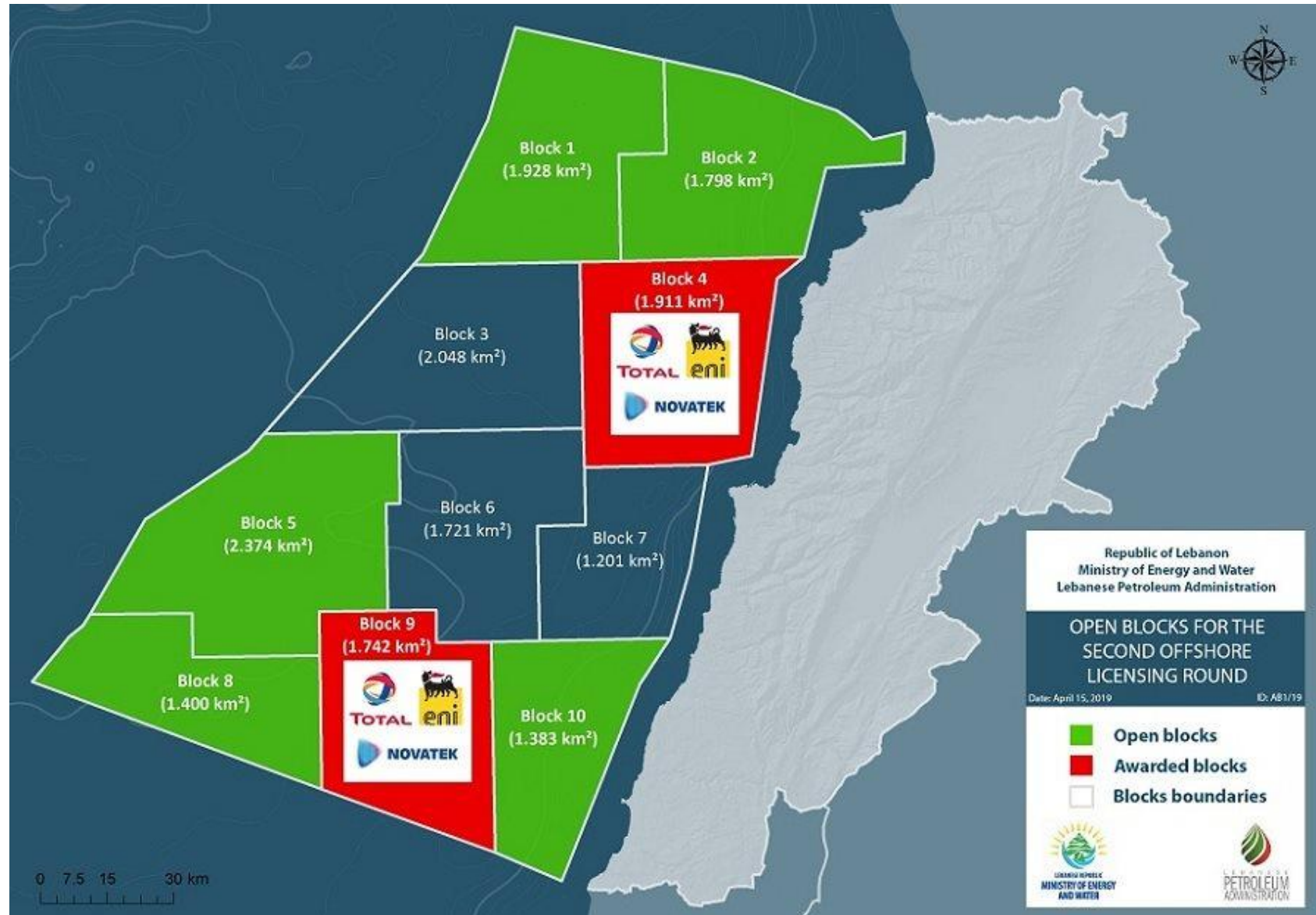
- Offshore hydrocarbon discoveries have triggered a host of maritime activities in the East Med
- Three EEZ delimitation agreements: Egypt-Cyprus (2003); Lebanon-Cyprus (2007 – Lebanon has yet to ratify it); Israel-Cyprus (2010)
- Two major disputes in the region: **Israel-Lebanon** and **Turkey-Cyprus**

The Israel-Lebanon dispute



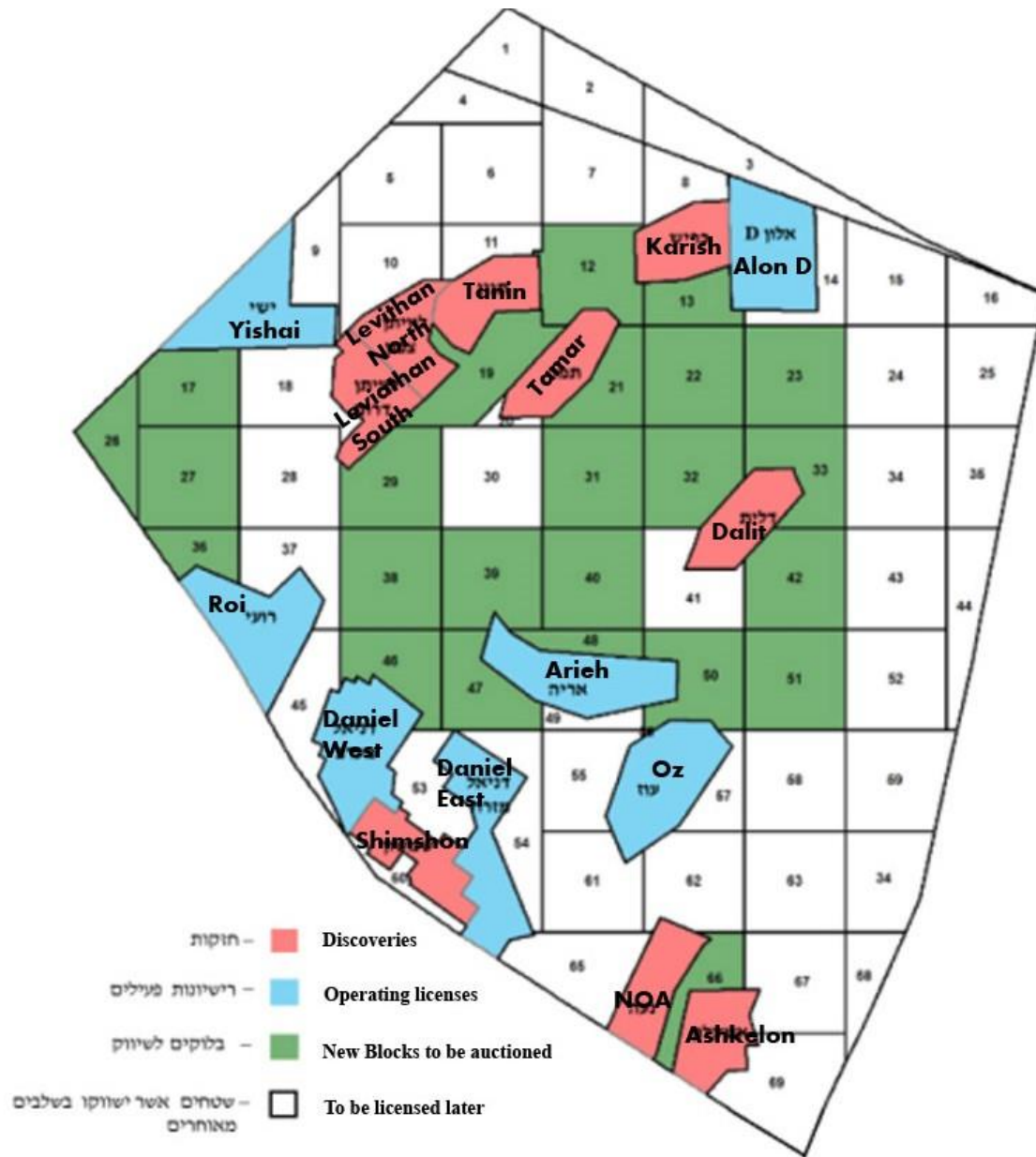
Source: Ministry of Energy and Water of Lebanon

The Israel-Lebanon dispute (Lebanese blocks)



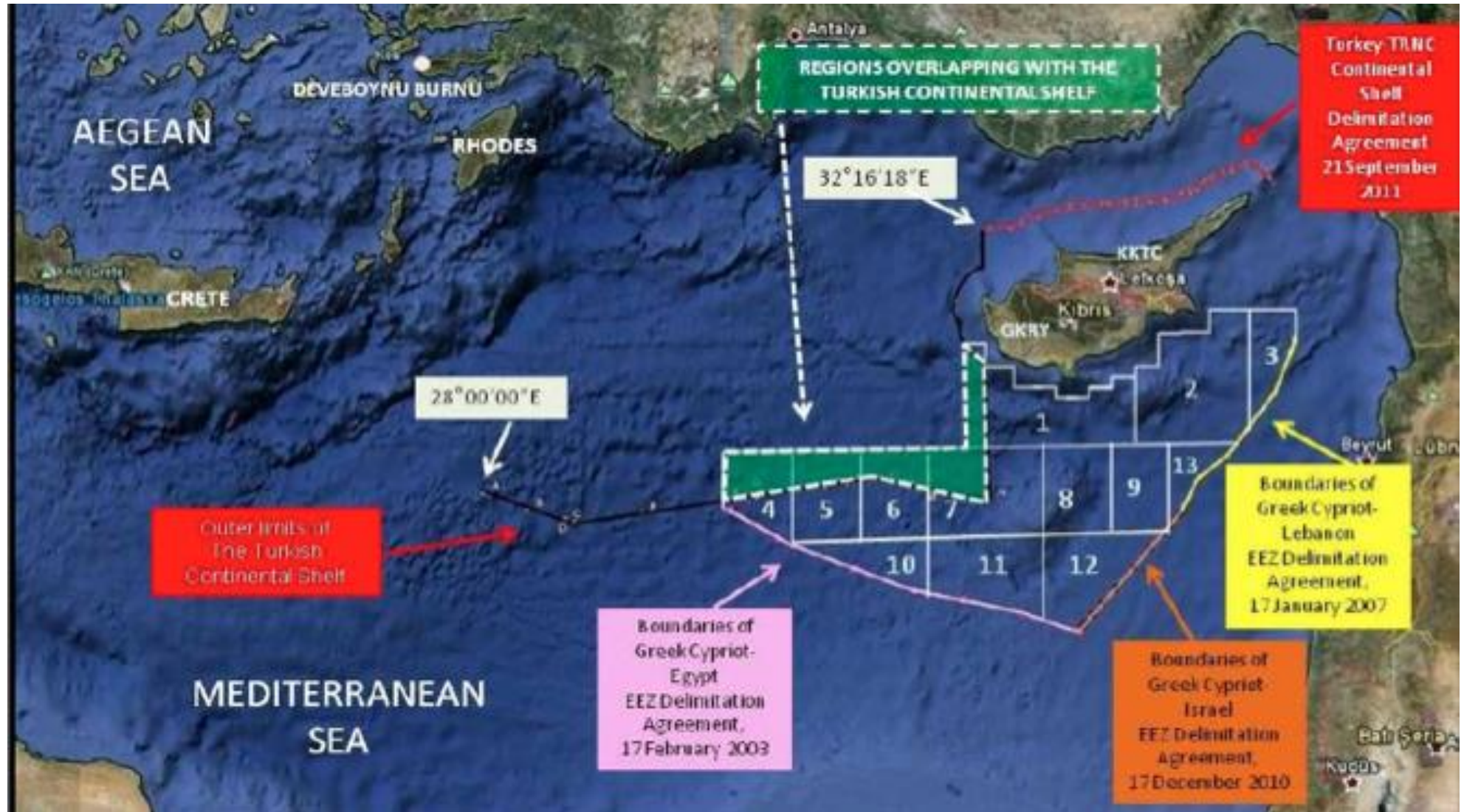
Source: Ministry of Energy and Water of Lebanon

The Israel-Lebanon dispute (Israeli blocks)



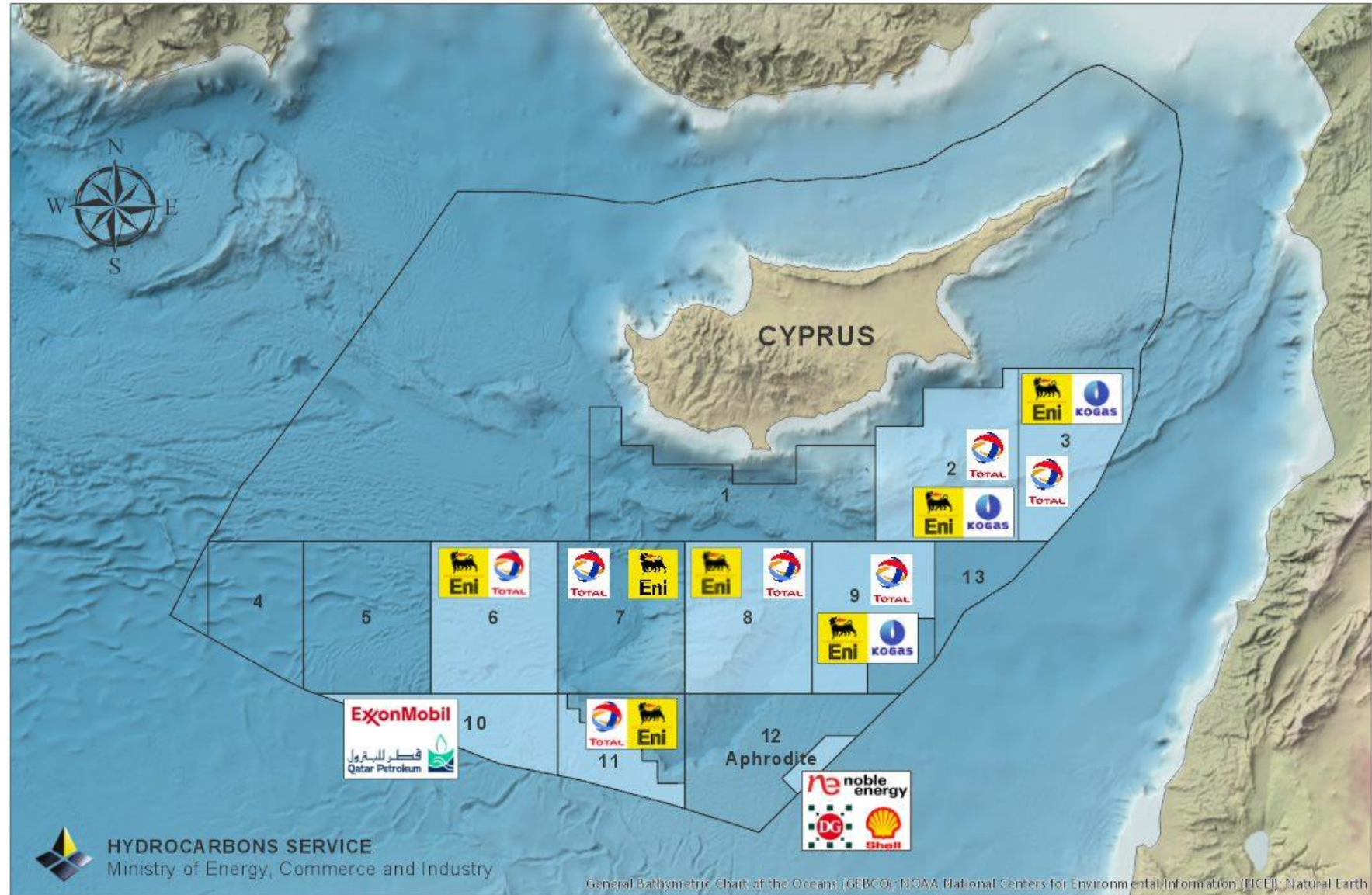
Source: Ministry of Energy of Israel

The Turkey-Cyprus dispute (overlapping claims)



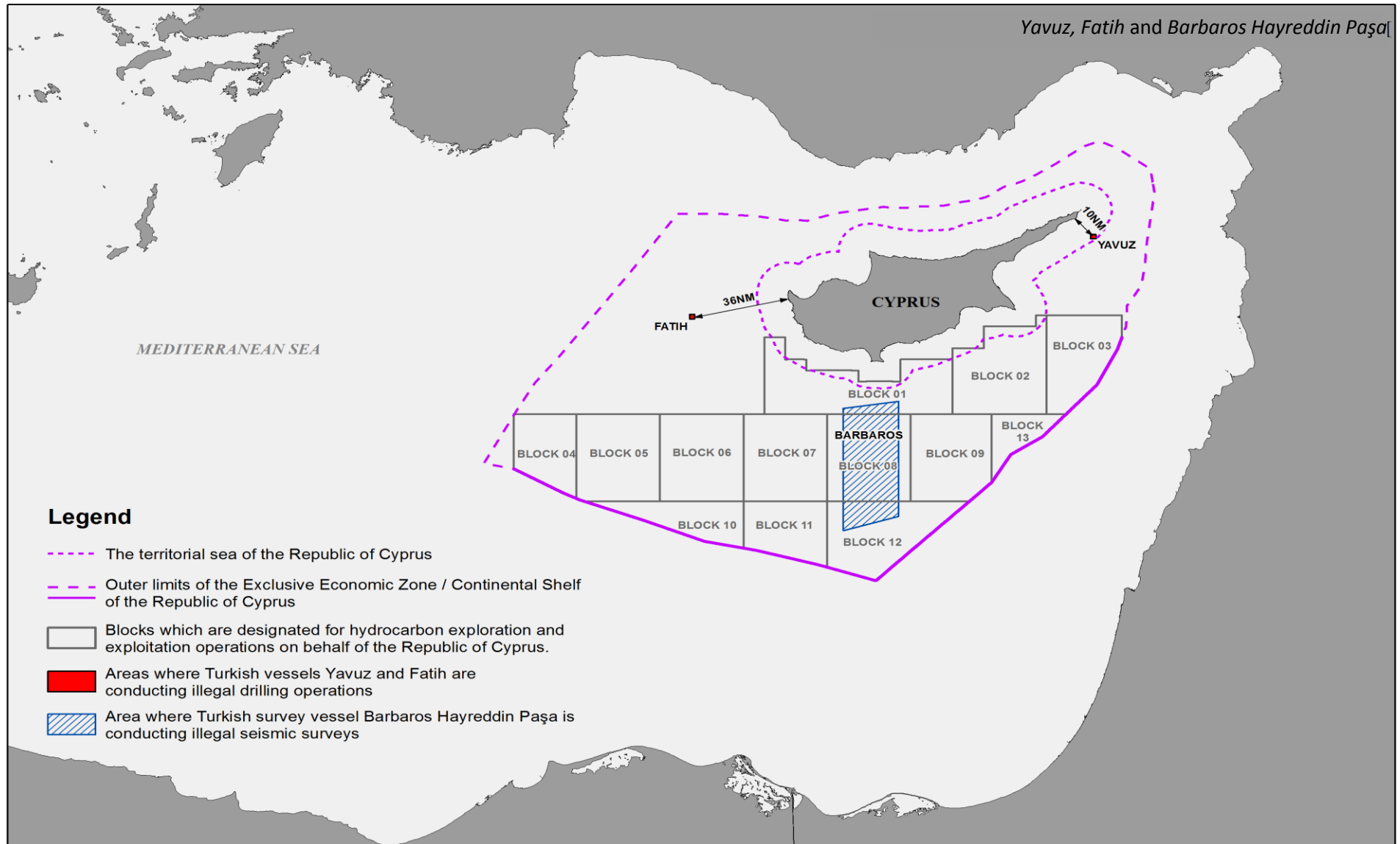
Source: Turkish MFA (2012)

The Turkey-Cyprus dispute (Cypriot offshore blocks)



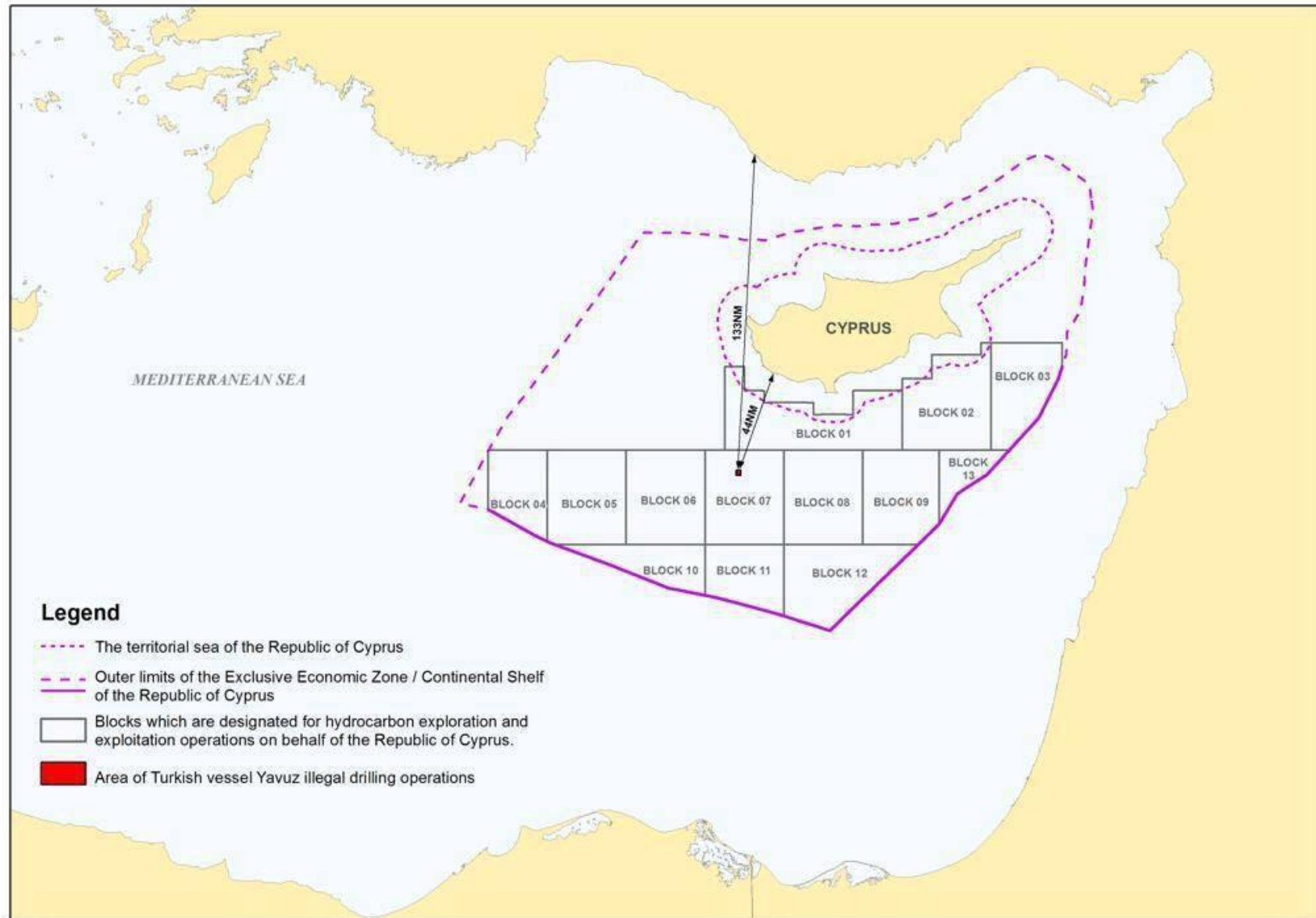
Source: Ministry of Energy of Cyprus

'FATIH', 'YAVUZ', 'BARBAROS' 2019



Source: Letter dated 11 July 2019 sent by Cyprus to the UN

'YAVUZ' October 2019



Source: Cyprus MFA

Conclusions

- International law and the law of the sea rules (both conventional and customary) govern maritime activities
- The interested States shall respect each other's sovereignty, sovereign rights and jurisdiction
- Delimitation of maritime boundaries of utmost importance for creating a stable environment
- Refrain from unilateral activities in undelimited areas jeopardising or hampering the reaching of the final agreement
- The regional States need to cooperate within the framework of international law in order to avail themselves of the energy bonanza

Thank you!

Email: ioannidisnik@gmail.com

Twitter: [@NickAIoannides](https://twitter.com/NickAIoannides)

LinkedIn: [Nicholas A. Ioannides](#)