



Instructions

From the association EcoOceanos, we have assumed the coordination of this campaign in defense of the sea biodiversity in Tenerife. If you would like to cooperate in this campaign, please obtain the maximum amount of signatures, fill in the data required in the grid below. The profile of the signers (that must state in the last column of the final grid) has the following priority.:

- 1- Club and diving centers
- 2- institutions of all kind that are somehow related with the sea.
- 3- private divers.
- 4- Any other individual that has a relation with the sea or the sea environment.
- 5- In the case that any individual wants to sign this petition, should be at least as an amateur snorkler. (Those who practice with mask and tube even occasionally.)

More information: www.ecooceanos.org

Contact: ecooceanos@gmail.com

STATEMENT FOR THE DEFENSE OF THE MARINE BIODIVERSITY OF THE COAST OF TENERIFE

Without a marine conservation, there is no future for humanity nor for the planet. Most people ignore the extreme situation in which our oceans are, and the imbalances caused by mankind. This is a reality that we can also appreciate locally. The shallow waters surrounding Tenerife (up to -50 meters, called shallow bottoms) are in a very concerning state of degradation, mainly caused by overfishing (professional fishing, spearfishing, land and boat fishing), shellfishing, motor boating, commercial ports and marinas, pollution, emissaries in disrepair, overcrowding of the Diadema sea urchin, etc.

As many as half of all known conservation funds for the marine species in the Canaries are concentrated in these shallow waters, which represent a tiny part of the marine ecosystem, which evidences the importance of their conversation. But the loss of biodiversity is important. The most affected by this situation is the inshore artisanal fishing sector, which has seen their catches and sizes dramatically decreased in recent decades. The recreational diving industry has also being severely affected, which in Tenerife and the Canary Islands has an enormous potential growth and job creation, and whose main limiting factor is this serious loss of biodiversity. Because unlike other sectors, where the extraction of marine resources is the goal, diving lives and feeds on the living presence of species and ecosystems in a healthy marine environment.

For all these aspects, the undersigned, individuals, companies and institutions linked to the world of diving in Tenerife make an urgent appeal to the competent authorities and the public in general, generically requesting the implementation of imminent recovery policies of the marine ecosystems in Tenerife (and the rest of the islands). In more detail we demand the following:

1. Enforce current regulations on fisheries, especially the illegal use of non-selective fishing techniques (such as trammel nets and pots, permanently located in prohibited areas) as well as the control and punishment of illegal spearfishing, widely spread throughout the shoreline. We consider that surveillance is totally inadequate, and we demand the involvement of any law enforcement for this purpose
2. This desired enforcement compliance, yet still essential, is not even enough. It is urgent to establish new regulations governing fishing, drastically restricting fishing target species (especially large species such as sharks, rays, groupers, etc., which should be strictly protected) and incorporating restrictive measures to similar recreational fishing practices: periods and areas of strict prohibition of fishing
3. Especially important is the strong measures against the overpopulation of the Diadema sea urchin, the main evidence of it is the poor state in which our seabeds are and the main deterrent for diving. Not understanding how, given the severity and extent of the “white areas” (underwater deserts caused by this species) at this point there has not been strictly protected their predators of commercial interest, as pejeperros, poised and pig cocks, big samas, etc.
4. We consider the urgent need for strict compliance on the spills as are now common standard, as well as the illegal dumping through emissaries which are on a terrible state



