

GUIDELINES FOR RECREATIONAL FISHING

JULY 2026



Govern de les
Illes Balears

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**Illes Balears
Sostenibles**



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This fishing manual is an informative publication that is updated on a regular basis.

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INTRODUCTION

Drafting up recreational fishing guidelines is a small contribution from the authorities to contribute towards fishing sustainability. However, without the cooperation of recreational fisherman in respecting the environment by using common sense, and enjoying going out to sea and fishing without crossing the line, we will not be able to achieve our ultimate goal of ensuring that recreational fishing is compatible with sustaining marine life.

In this regard, the following regulations should be highlighted:

- Decree 31/2021, of 31 May, which governs professional and recreational shellfishing in the Balearic Islands and amends Decree 19/2019, of 15 March, which establishes the multi-island management plan for traditional net fishing in the waters of the Balearic Islands.
- Decree 41/2015, of 22 May, which governs the extraction of marine flora or fauna and underwater activities in the marine reserves of the inland waters of the coast of the Balearic Islands.

These regulations, together with Law 6/2013, of 7 November, on sea fishing, shellfishing and aquaculture in the Balearic Islands, and Decree 34/2014, of 1 August, establishing the general principles of recreational and sport fishing in the inland waters of the Balearic Islands, form the basic pillars of recreational fishing in the waters of the Balearic Islands that are set out in the updated edition of this fishing manual.



WHAT DO I NEED TO GO FISHING?

In addition to the fishing gear required to catch different species, you must hold the corresponding license. There are five types of recreational sea fishing licenses:

- **Individual** license to fish from land or from floating vessels, such as canoes, kayaks, pedalos and the like, from 14 years old.
- **Vessels** in categories 6 and 7 or vessels flying the flag of European Union countries.
- **Underwater fishing**, from the age of 16 with the consent of parents or guardians, or freely from the age of 18.
- **Sport fishing**, to participate in official competitions and training.
- **Fishing charters**, from a boat that provides the service of taking people to fish for a commercial purpose, without the catches being sold.



Individual and boat licenses are valid for three years. Children under the age of 14 do not require a licence to fish from the shore.

Vessels that practice deep-sea fishing (tuna, albacore, garfish, sea bream, marlin, etc.) must obtain a specific fishing authorisation via the Ministry's [PescaREC](#) mobile application. This permit is subject to the technical requirements and limitations established by the specific regulations.

For fishing in inland waters (Gorg Blau, Cúber, Estany dels Ponts, etc.), fishermen must have a permit from the competent body for river fishing.



Where can I get fishing licenses?



In person: a at the offices of the Directorate General of Fisheries at the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and the Natural Environment of the Government of the Balearic Islands, with address at Calle de la Reina Constanza, 4, Palma, or in the regional offices in Campos, Felanitx, Manacor, Inca and Sa Pobla, and in the island councils of Menorca, Ibiza and Formentera.

Online processing:

Your individual fishing license can be issued and renewed at the following link: [individual license](#).

The boat license can be renewed, if there is no change of owner, registration or boat name, at the following link: [boat license renewal](#).

You can also obtain a license for the first time, by providing the necessary documentation, at the following link: [first boat expedition](#).

Automatic online renewal is €10 cheaper for individual licenses and €15 cheaper for boat licenses.

You can process the underwater fishing license, by providing the necessary documentation, at the following link: [underwater license](#).

Licenses from other autonomous communities are valid as long as they comply with the autonomous provisions on recreational fishing.



What documentation do I need to provide to get these licenses?

In person, you will need to provide an application signed by the interested party, a receipt of payment of the corresponding fee and, if it is your first application, a photocopy of your DNI/NIE or passport. In case of license renewal, you do not need to provide a photocopy of your ID.

You can pay the corresponding fees at government offices, via Bizum, or by a bank transfer on the website of the Directorate General of Fisheries.

Fishing License Fee	
Individual license	26,21 €
Underwater fishing	28,92 €
Vessel length up to 6 m	47,21 €
Vessel length over 6 m	77,80 €
Replacement card	10,78 €

An individual recreational fishing license is valid for three years. Persons over 65 years of age or retirees are exempt from paying the fishing license fee, if they provide proof of this status.

To obtain an underwater fishing license, you must also present your current federal license, or a medical certificate certifying fitness for underwater activities, issued by a registered doctor, along with civil liability and accident insurance that specifically covers underwater fishing, all current and up to date. However, to fish with a rifle, you need to have a federal license. The spearfishing license is valid for one year. Persons over 65 years of age or retirees are exempt from paying the fishing license fee, if they provide proof of this status.

Underwater fishing in the marine reserves of the Bay of Palma and Migjorn de Mallorca, or in one of the protected natural areas in the Balearic Islands, requires prior annual authorisation.

This marine reserve permit can be obtained electronically at the following link: [application for an underwater fishing license for the marine reserves of Palma and Migjorn de Mallorca](#).

Cabo Salinas (Migjorn de Mallorca marine reserve)



Recommendations

- Have at least **minimal knowledge of the sea** and fishing species of interest.
- Bring **appropriate equipment** for the type of fishing you wish to practice.
- Carry a **communication system** (mobile phone, radio telephone, etc.), especially if travelling by boat.
- **Inform someone** you trust of where you plan to fish.
- **Check the weather** information before leaving.
- Have civil liability **insurance**.

Any waste generated while fishing must not be thrown in the sea or left on the coast. Similarly, it is very important to remove any waste from used equipment, such as lines, hooks, etc., as this can be very dangerous.



WHAT CAN I CATCH?

- You can catch fish, cephalopods (octopuses, cuttlefish and squid), and also some invertebrates (see the section on recreational shellfishing).
- From the shore, you can fish up to 5 kg, plus one catch, per license per day.
- From a boat, each fisherman can catch up to 5 kg, with an overall maximum of 25 kg (if there are five or more fishermen) per boat per day, plus a single additional catch.
- Some species are subject to a minimum catch size or weight.
- If you catch a prohibited species or one that does not meet minimum established size and weight requirements, you must return it to the sea, dead or alive.
- You are not allowed to remove coral or similar organisms, or catch worms, tita worms, sea snails, limpets, bivalves or crustaceans such as lobsters, crabs, spider crabs, sea cicadas or prawns, including when used as bait, except for the blue crab.



Groupers have a daily catch limit.

Minimum catch sizes

- For some species, there is a minimum catch size or weight, determined based on scientific studies, with the aim of allowing these species to reproduce at least once before being caught.
- Below are the illustrations of the fish with a minimum catch size in the inland waters of the Balearic Islands*:
- Further details can be downloaded at this [link](#).



Bogue
Boops boops
11 cm



Poor cod
Trisopterus minutus
11 cm



Atlantic mackerel
Scomber scombrus
18 cm



Brown meagre
Sciaena umbra
30 cm



Red scorpionfish
Sarpaena scrofa
30 cm



Red mullet/surmullet
Mullus spp.
11 cm



Red porgy
Pagrus pagrus
18 cm



Common sole
Solea vulgaris
20 cm



Blackspot seabream
Pagellus bogarveo
33 cm



John dory
Zeus faber
30 cm



Annular seabream
Diplodus annularis
12 cm



Common pandora
Pagellus erythrinus
15 cm



Gilthead seabream
Sparus aurata
20 cm



Sand steenbras
Lithognathus mormyrus
20 cm



Common dentex
Dentex dentex
35 cm



Mullet
Mugilidae
16 cm



White seabream
Diplodus sargus
23 cm



Anglerfishes
Lophius spp.
30 cm



Hake
Merluccius merluccius
20 cm



Zebra seabream
Diplodus cervinus
15 cm

*Other fish with minimum catch size are the four-spot megrim (15 cm), the blue whiting (15 cm), and the Atlantic pomfret (16 cm).



Mackerel
Trachurus spp.
15 cm



Sharpshout seabream
Diplodus puntazzo
18 cm



Garfish
Belone belone
25 cm



Common Two-banded seabream
Seriola dumerilli
35 cm



European seabass
Dicentrarchus labrax
25 cm



Sharpshout seabream
Diplodus vulgaris
18 cm



Smooth-hound
Mustelus spp.
95 cm



Bluefin tuna
Thunnus thynnus
115 cm (o 30 kg)



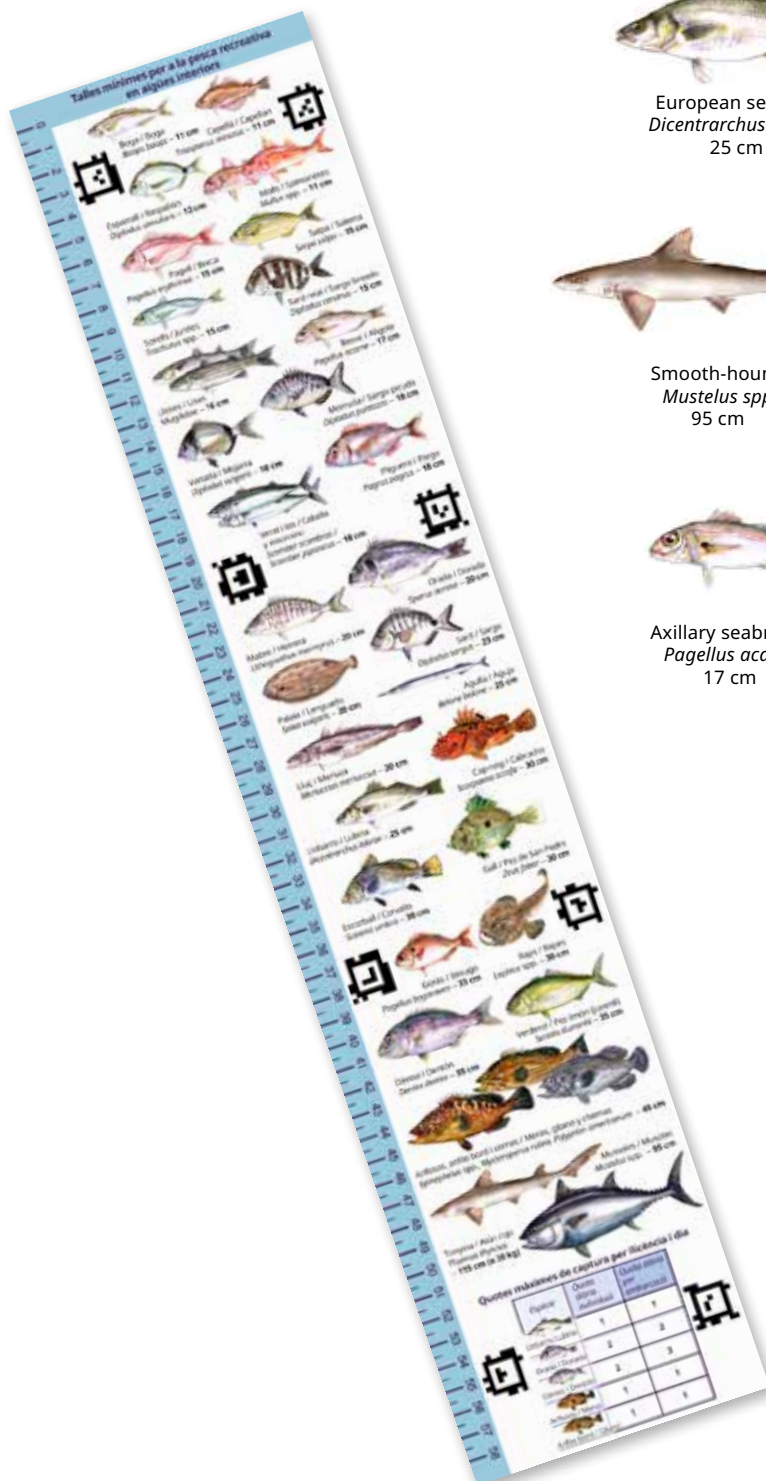
Axillary seabream
Pagellus acame
17 cm



Salema
Sarpa salpa
15 cm



Groupers
Epinephelus spp, *Mycteroperca rubra*,
Polyprion americanum
45 cm



How are fish measured?

The size of the fish (TL) should be measured as illustrated in Figure 1, from the tip of the mouth to the end of the caudal fin.

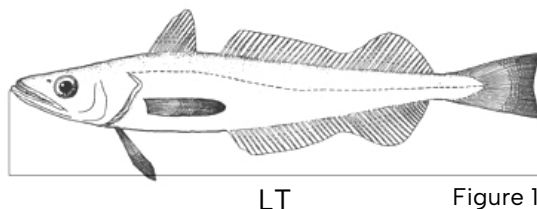


Figure 1

Fish that have a daily catch limit

On the coast of the Balearic Islands, outside marine reserves, the following maximum daily catch quotas have been established, depending on the species and type of fishing license:

Common name in English/Common name in Spanish/ <i>Scientific name</i>	Individual daily quota (underwater and shore)	Daily quota per vessel
European seabass / Lubina / <i>Dicentrarchus labrax</i>	1	1
Gilthead seabream / Dorada / <i>Sparus aurata</i>	2	2
Common dentex / Dentón / <i>Dentex dentex</i>	2	3
Groupers / Meros / <i>Ephinephelus</i> spp.	1	1
Mottled grouper / Gitano / <i>Mycteroperca rubra</i>	1	1

As for the cleaver wrasse (locally known as *raors*), a maximum of 50 fish can be caught per fisherman per day, with a limit of 300 per vessel. Fishing is generally allowed from 1 September to 31 March.

Mahi-mahi: A maximum of 5 fish per angler per day may be caught, subject to the applicable maximum catch limits. Fishing is only permitted from 15 August to 31 December.

Catch limitations in marine reserves can be found on [page 36](#)

Sea bream has a daily catch limit.



What fish do I need to tag?

In order to prevent the fraudulent sale of fish from recreational fishing, fishermen are obliged to tag caught specimens from certain species that are considered to hold commercial value.

This tag consists of a cut on the lower lobe of the fish's caudal fin. The fish must be tagged before landing, in the case of fishing from a boat, or as soon as it has been caught, when fishing from the shore or underwater.

The tag must not prevent the total size of the catch from being measured.

The species subject to tagging are:

Scientific name	Common name
<i>Seriola dumerili</i>	Greater amberjack
<i>Zeus faber</i>	John Dory
<i>Dentex dentex</i>	Common dentex
<i>Scorpaena scorpa</i>	Scorpionfish
<i>Epinephelus</i> spp.	Groupers
<i>Sciaena umbra</i>	Brown meagre
<i>Umbrina cirrosa</i>	Shi drum



Example of how to cut the caudal fin.

Species that cannot be fished anywhere in Spain

Due to their scarcity of certain species, or the rate of decline of some fish populations, the authorities have put regulations in place to protect certain fish species and prevent them from disappearing.

In Spain, the reference standard for species conservation is Law 42/2007, of 13 December, on natural heritage and biodiversity, which created a catalogue



The roughshark is a protected species.

of protected species (Royal Decree 139/2011) that includes animals and plants that deserve special attention and protection.

If a species is included on this list, the following is strictly prohibited:

- Any action taken for the purpose of killing, capturing, pursuing or aggravating the species, as well as its destruction or deterioration.
- The possession, naturalisation, transport, sale, trade or exchange of the species, or offering a protected species for sale or exchange, import or export, of either live or dead specimens, their propagules or remains. In the case of animals, this includes larvae, offspring and eggs.

The following species are currently protected*:

<i>Scientific name</i>	<i>Common name in English</i>	<i>Common name in Spanish</i>
<i>Rhinobatos</i> spp.	Common guitarfish	Guitarras
<i>Carcharodon carcharias</i>	Great white shark	Tiburón blanco
<i>Isurus oxyrinchus</i>	Shortfin mako	Marrajo común
<i>Lamna nasus</i>	Porbeagle	Cailón
<i>Galeorhinus galeus</i>	Tope shark	Cazón
<i>Cetorhinus maximus</i>	Basking shark	Tiburón peregrino
<i>Alopias vulpinus</i>	Thresher	Pez zorro
<i>Sphyrna</i> spp.	Hammerhead sharks	Peces martillo
<i>Oxynotus centrina</i>	Angular roughshark	Cerdo marino
<i>Squatina</i> spp.	Angel sharks	Peces ángel, angelotes
<i>Pristis pristis</i>	Common sawfish	Pez sierra
<i>Dipturus batis</i>	Blue skate	Noriega
<i>Rostroraja alba</i>	White skate	Raya bramante
<i>Leucoraja circularis</i>	Sandy ray	Raya falsa vela
<i>Gymnura altavela</i>	Spiny butterfly ray	Raya mariposa
<i>Mobula mobular</i>	Spinetail devil ray	Manta
<i>Hippocampus</i> spp.	seahorse	Caballito de mar (dos especies)
<i>Aetomylaeus bovinus</i>	Bull ray	Pez obispo
<i>Dasyatis pastinaca</i>	Common stingray	Pastinaca
<i>Bathystoshia lata</i>	Brown stingray	Raya marrón
<i>Rhinoptera marginata</i>	Lusitanian cownose ray	Gavilán lusitánico

* Other sharks are also protected, such as *Carcharias taurus* and *Odontaspis ferox*, the ray *Leucoraja melitensis*, the common sturgeon *Acipenser sturio* and a species of pufferfish, *Chilomycterus atringa*.

PLEASE NOTE

This list is constantly updated, so species may be added or removed, depending on changes to their conservation status. For more information, see the website of the Directorate General of Fisheries.

Cleaver wrasse or “*raors*”, greater amberjack and mahi-mahi

Cleaver wrasse or “*raors*”: A maximum of 50 fish can be caught per fisherman per day, with a limit of 300 per vessel. Fishing is generally allowed from 1 September to 31 March.

Mahi-mahi: A maximum of 5 fish per angler per day may be caught, subject to the applicable maximum catch limits. Fishing is only permitted from 15 August to 31 December.

Greater amberjack (*Seriola dumerili*): the minimum catch size is 35 cm.



Jose A Arribas

Species subject to differentiated protection measures

In order to catch or hold these species on board, the vessel must have a specific fishing permit issued by the competent state body.

<i>Scientific name</i>	<i>Common name</i>
<i>Pagellus bogaraveo</i>	Blackspot seabream
<i>Thunnus thynnus</i>	Bluefin tuna
<i>Makaira</i> spp.	Marlins
<i>Tetrapturus</i> spp. <i>Istiophorus albicans</i> <i>Makaira nigricans</i> <i>Makaira</i> spp. <i>Tetrapturus belone</i> <i>Tetrapturus georgii</i> <i>Tetrapturus pfluegeri</i> <i>Kajikia albida</i>	Sailfish
<i>Merluccius merluccius</i>	Hake
<i>Thunnus alalunga</i>	Albacore
<i>Thunnus obesus</i>	Bigeye tuna
<i>Xiphias gladius</i>	Swordfish
<i>Dicentrarchus labrax</i>	European seabass
<i>Gadus morhua</i>	Atlantic cod
<i>Coryphaena hippurus</i>	Mahi-mahi
<i>Pollachius pollachius</i>	Pollack
<i>Solea solea</i>	Common sole
<i>Istiophorus</i> spp.	Sailfish

VERY IMPORTANT

Recreational fishing quotas for species such as bluefin tuna and albacore are limited and may be reached before the end of the season. Fishers should therefore check the PescaREC app before setting out to ensure that recreational fishing for these species is still permitted.

The PescaREC app sets out the catch conditions for each species, including catch limits and any other applicable requirements. All catches of species subject to specific protection measures, whether retained or released, must be reported through the PescaREC app, regardless of whether they are taken in inland or outer waters.

Other species that must also be reported through the PescaREC app include Atlantic bonito (*Sarda sarda*), little tunny (*Euthynnus* spp.), Atlantic pomfret (*Brama brama*), pomfrets (*Bramidae* spp.), frigate and bullet tunas (*Auxis* spp.), yellowfin tuna (*Thunnus albacares*), and Atlantic saury (*Scomberesox saurus*). As this list may change, the latest information is available in the PescaREC app.

Recreational fishing for bluefin tuna that results in the death of the fish is prohibited. If a bluefin tuna is caught, all necessary measures must be taken to ensure that it is returned to the sea alive. Where a bluefin tuna is accidentally caught and dies, the vessel's skipper or the licence holder may land the whole fish, **provided that sufficient quota is available** and the catch is reported in accordance with the applicable regulations **before returning to port**.

Only one bluefin tuna that has died following an accidental catch may be landed per day, up to a maximum of two fish per season, provided that quota remains available. Once this limit has been reached, the authorisation shall be suspended for the remainder of the season.

During October, juvenile Atlantic bluefin tuna (*Thunnus thynnus*), typically measuring between 30 and 50 cm, are abundant along the coasts of the Balearic Islands. If caught, they must be released immediately.



The following tuna species may be confused with Atlantic bluefin tuna but may legally be caught:



WHERE CAN I FISH?

All along the coastline and in open water, **EXCEPT:**

- At the entrance to ports and inside port facilities. Fishing competitions are allowed inside port facilities with authorisation from port management.
- Less than 100 m from swimming areas.
- On the beach, between 7 am and 10 pm, between 1 May and 30 September.
- Less than 250 m from any professional fishing tackle/equipment, including any mahi-mahi feeders.
- In special protection areas (nature reserves) and in restricted areas within marine reserves.
- In the marine and land national park in the Cabrera archipelago.
- On the island of sa Dragonera and on the islets of Freu de sa Dragonera marine reserve.
- All along the coast of the Mondragó Natural Park.
- On the land, in the nature reserves of Es Vedrà and Es Vedranell and the Illots de Ponent (Ibiza).
- On the land, in the protected areas of the natural reserve of the Serra de Tramuntana.
- From the islets of the marine reserves of the western islands of Mallorca, Toro, Malgrats and Sec and the Isla del Aire.
- Within the s'Oberta area of the s'Albufera de Mallorca Natural Park.

Es Vedrà. Fishing from the islets is generally prohibited.



In addition:

- Underwater fishing is not allowed in the marine area of the Es Trenc-Salobrar de Campos marine and land natural park.
- Boat fishing and underwater fishing are not allowed in the Special Diving Area of the Isla del Aire marine reserve.

The competent body for protected natural areas may authorise underwater fishing:

- In the marine area of the S'Albufera des Grau natural park.
- In the protected marine areas of Port des Canonge (ES5310081) and S'Estaca in the Punta de Deià (ES5310082).
- In the marine area of Cala Figuera (Formentor peninsula) between Punta de Tomás and Punta dels Aucells in Cap de Catalunya.
- In the marine area that goes from Morro de Es Fabioler to Pont d'en Barraca, which covers the protected marine area of Es Rajolí (ES5310077).
- Part of the coastline of the Natural Reserve of the Illots de Ponent (Ibiza).

Landmarks

The landmarks may either be concrete pylons installed along the coast, or stripes painted on the cliffs that draw an imaginary line in the sea, positioned two by two.

These lines mark the boundaries of marine reserves or special protection areas. In any case, they serve as an aid for fisherman to position themselves correctly. However, keep in mind that they never prevail over the GPS position of the surveillance services.



WHAT IS ALLOWED WHEN FISHING FROM A BOAT, A FLOATING DEVICE OR FROM SHORE?

- When fishing from a boat or floating device and outside marine reserves, you can fish with the following equipment and in the following ways: bottom fishing and trolling (*fluixa*), with triple hooks, using a rod with or without a reel, line fishing (with a maximum of six hooks), fish spear, hand nets, jigging and spin fishing. You can use up to two rods/lines per fisherman, with a maximum of two triple hooks.
- From the shore and outside the marine reserves you can fish with the following equipment and in the following ways: using a rod with or without a reel, spin fishing, line fishing (with a maximum of six hooks), fish spear and hand nets. You can use up to two rods/lines per fisherman, with a maximum of one artificial bait per rod.
- It is forbidden to sell your catches.
- It is not permitted to fish with professional fishing gear, such as longlines, fish traps or nets.
- In inland waters, you are not allowed to use an electric reel. You can carry on board a maximum of two electric reels that together do not exceed 300 W of power, to be used **exclusively in coastal waters**.
- You cannot use means to lure the species you want to catch, such as light, except for big-game fishing.
- In order to use dynamic positioning you must have a specific free permit that can be obtained electronically: [link to the permit](#).



TRADITIONAL FISHING GEAR

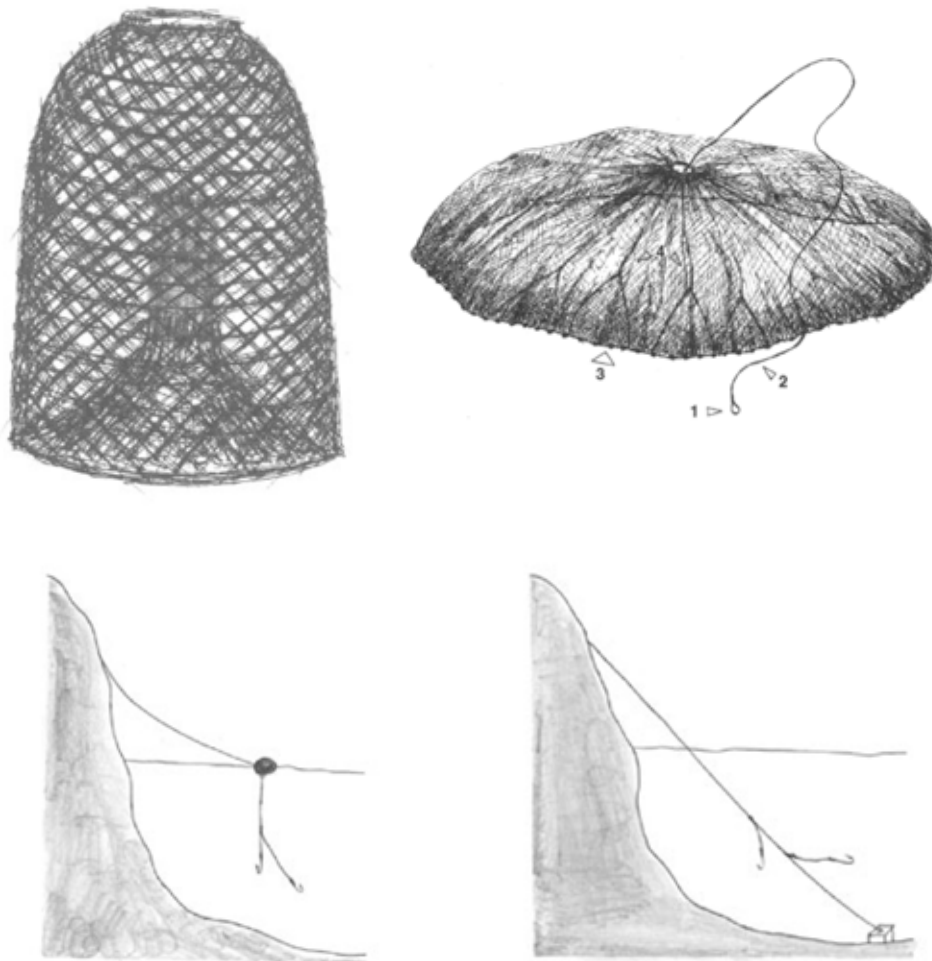
Once you hold an individual recreational fishing license, you can apply for the traditional tackle license, which permits the use of two *morenell* fishing baskets, one *esparavel* fishing net and three *lienços* or one *moixonera* (in Menorca), per person.

The license is registered with a fee and is valid for two years. You can apply for a license electronically online, or in person at the relevant offices in Mallorca and in the offices of the island councils of Menorca, Ibiza and Formentera.

Morenells must be made with organic material.

This fishing equipment can only be used in the permitted areas and always from the shore.

All this equipment, except the *esparavel* fishing net, must be marked so that it can be identified in case of an inspection.



Morenell fishing baskets, *esparavel* fishing nets and *lienços*.

UNDERWATER FISHING

Underwater fishing must be carried out without breathing equipment. It is mandatory to use a signalling buoy of a colour that is visible at sea (orange, red or yellow). The fisherman cannot move more than 25 m from this buoy.

- Underwater fishing is only allowed from sunrise to sunset.
- The only permitted equipment is a manual or mechanically powered harpoon, with one tip or more.
- Fishermen may not be towed by boats.
- The use of a flashlight and knife is permitted. Fishing torpedoes, or similar vessels, may not be used in conjunction with underwater rifles or fishing gear.
- Fishermen cannot sell their catch.
- When fishing with an underwater rifle, you must be in possession of a valid spanish federal license.



WHEN CAN I FISH?

- Any day of the week, except the dates established for each marine reserve and during the fishing bans established for some species.
- At any time of the day, except spearfishing, which is prohibited between sunset and sunrise.
- You cannot fish in the waters outside the government-defined marine reserves at night.



Between the months of May and September you cannot fish from the beach between 7 am and 10 pm.

RECREATIONAL SHELLFISHING

What do I need for shellfishing?

You need to have an individual recreational fishing license or underwater fishing license. If you want to catch cephalopods from a boat, the boat must have a fishing license.

Children under the age of 14 can shellfish without a license.



Where can I shellfish?

In all the waters of the Balearic Islands where recreational fishing is allowed.

What species can be caught?

Only some echinoderms, some cephalopods, non-decapod crustaceans and some cnidarians can be caught in recreational shellfishing.

- Squid and cuttlefish: up to ten squid or cuttlefish can be caught per day, without exceeding more than 5 kg, plus one additional catch per person or individual license.
- Blue crab (*Callinectes sapidus*): A maximum of 2 kg per day may be caught per individual licence.
- Octopuses: up to three octopuses can be caught daily, with a minimum weight of 1 kg each.

Closed seasons are established in all areas with depths of less than 50 metres to prevent the capture of octopus while they are breeding.

Months when octopus fishing is banned

Menorca	May and June
Mallorca	June and July
Ibiza and Formentera	From 15 July to 15 October

- Between sea urchins and sea anenomes: 30 sea urchins or sea anenomes can be caught per individual license per day.

Sea urchins can be caught between these dates: from 1 November to 31 March. They cannot be caught deeper than 10m.

Minimum sizes (body diameter without spikes):

Species size	
Purple sea urchin (<i>Paracentrotus lividus</i>)	5 cm
Violet sea urchin (<i>Sphaerechinus granularis</i>)	6 cm

- “Puu” bait fishing: up to 5 kg per day per individual license.

How am I allowed to shellfish?

Only on foot, freediving or by boat. The only fishing gear that can be used are hand nets, triple hooks and fish spears.

In order to catch bait, or “puu”, you may use a “bou” net, rope or a stake

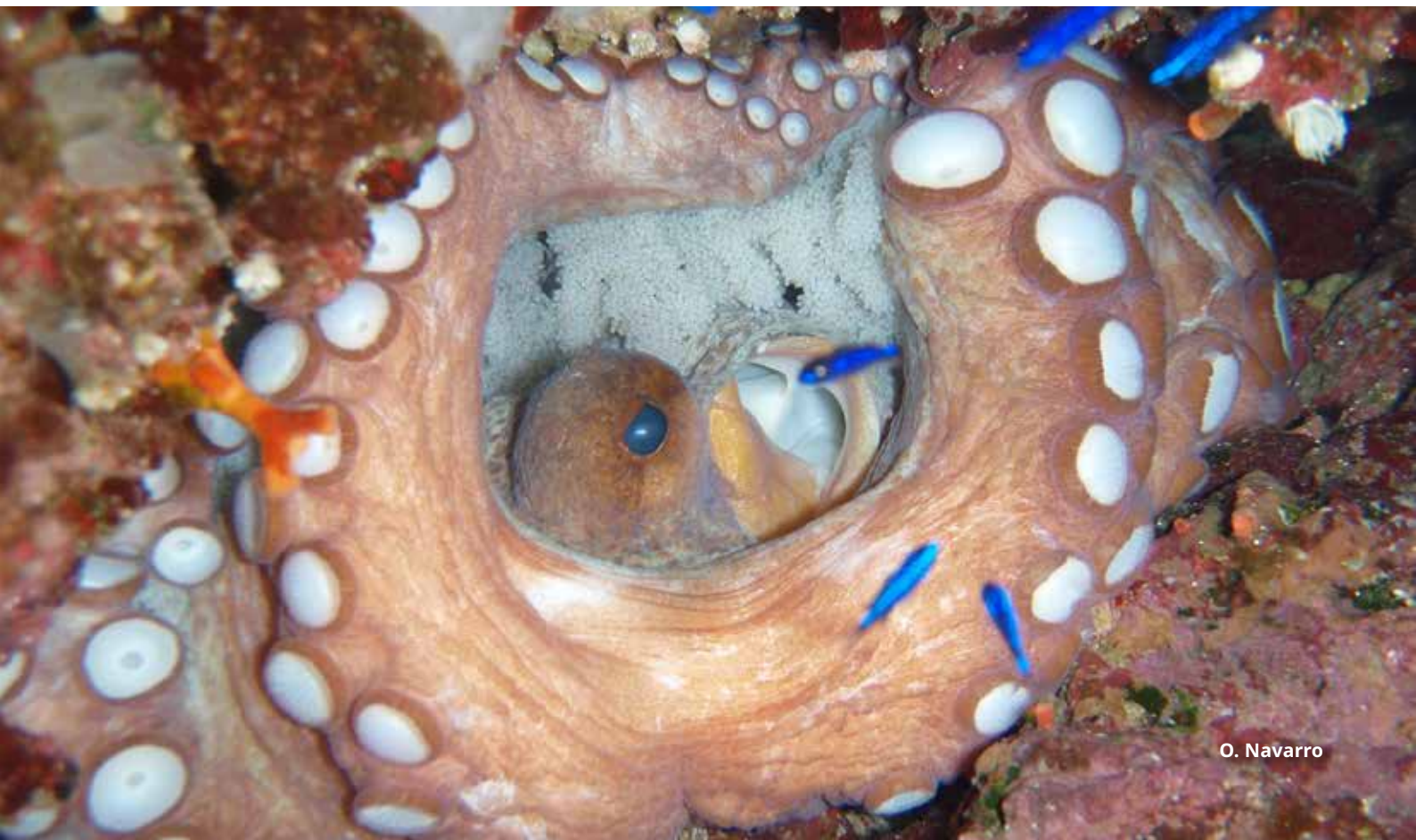


Bans on shellfishing

- You cannot shellfish between sunset and sunrise, except to catch cephalopods (squid, cuttlefish and octopus). In the latter case, you can never shellfish while snorkelling or diving.
- Light cannot be used as a means of attracting cephalopods.
- It is forbidden to sell your catches.
- It is not permitted to catch the spotted octopus (*Callistoctopus macropus*) or the sea urchin (*Centrostephanus longispinus*).
- Catches cannot be transferred between boats.
- The only molluscs that can be caught are cephalopods. No bivalves or gastropods can be caught.
- Crabs, lobsters, Norway lobsters, prawns, lobsters and other decapod crustaceans cannot be caught (with the exception of the blue crab).

VERY IMPORTANT

The recreational shellfish quota cannot be added to the recreational fishing quota, so the maximum daily quota for both shellfish and fish cannot exceed 5 kg plus the weight of an additional catch.



SPORT FISHING CHAMPIONSHIPS

- Sport fishing championships require prior authorisation from the competent body, which in Mallorca is the Directorate General of Fisheries, and in the other islands, the island councils. The application must state the method of fishing, the area where the championship is planned, the type of championship, the schedule and whether or not it will exceed the established catch quotas. The corresponding fee must be paid.
- Championships for species with a special protection status and in territorial waters require authorisation from the competent state body. The application must be submitted one month in advance.
- The organisers of the competition or the relevant federation must communicate the results of the competition within fifteen days after it was held.
- To participate in official competitions and training you must be in possession of a sport sea fishing license.
- Championships are registered with a fee.



VENOMOUS FISH

Weevers



These fish live on sandy seabeds and are frequently caught by recreational fishermen. They can be fished with all kinds of fishing lines and also, sometimes, by trolling. Be very careful, because the spines on the gill covers and the first dorsal fin are venomous. Weever venom is neurotoxic and hemotoxic, much like snakes. In addition to severe pain, it can cause fever, vomiting, slowing of the heart, breathing difficulties, and even death. You should not remove the spines directly with your hands. We recommend cutting off the venomous spines as soon as you catch the fish, or otherwise immediately releasing them alive back into the sea.

Stingrays, eagle rays and similar



These ray-like fish are commonly found in coastal waters, especially in areas with a sandy seabed. These species are not often caught by recreational fishermen. They are sometimes caught in underwater fishing, or with rods from the coast at night. These rays have one, two or even three poisonous barbs on their tail, which they can use to cause a painful sting, in addition to considerable injuries. Its venom, thermolabile, is

deactivated by heat. We recommend releasing stingrays and eagle rays alive, given their conservation status.

Currently both the stingray and the bull ray are protected. If you catch either of these species you must return them to the sea, dead or alive.

Black scorpionfish and red scorpionfish



Black scorpionfish mainly live on seabeds with posidonia or stone bottoms, while red scorpionfish are also found on coral bottoms. Recreational fishermen normally catch few black scorpionfish, but they often catch red scorpionfish.

This is especially the case with line fishing, when fishing for painted combers on the continental shelf. They are also often caught by spear fishermen. The spines on the head and back of these fish contain venom, which can cause extremely painful stings.



Spiny dogfish or mud sharks

These small sharks are found mainly on the continental shelf but also on the continental slope. There are two similar species of spiny dogfish that can be caught on a line. They have two venomous stings in front of each dorsal fin, which can cause painful injuries.

Recommendations

- Never catch or touch a fish that you suspect to be dangerous. We advise carrying suitable fishing forceps so that you can detach fish from the hook without problems, either by cutting the thread and releasing your catch, or by letting the animal die and then handling it carefully.
- Take care in sandy bathing areas, as you may step on a weever or stingray and get stung.
- While snorkelling or diving, if you see a spotted weever making winding movements with open gill covers and its dorsal fin up, you should move away immediately. This behaviour warns of a possible sudden attack by the spotted weever.
- Note that in some dead fish, even when frozen, their venom is still active.



How to treat a venomous fish sting

Go to a medical centre or see a doctor as soon as possible. In the meantime, use appropriate topical ointments or medication.

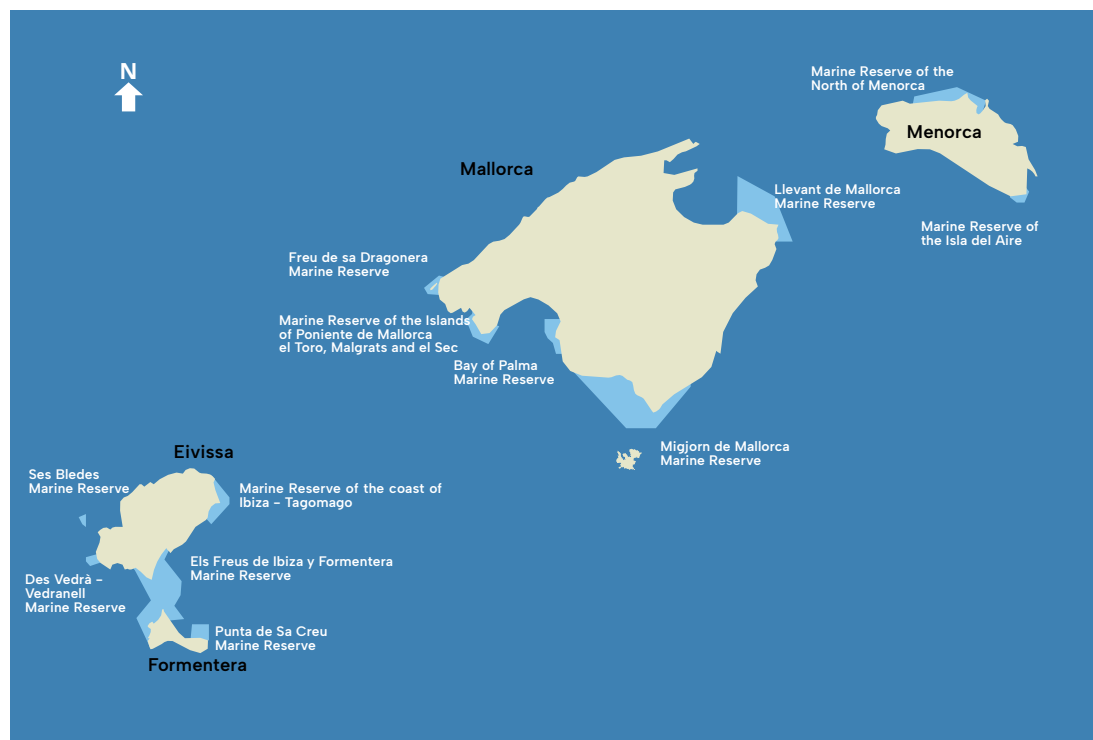
MARINE RESERVES

Marine reserves are protected fishing areas with regulation governing the use and exploitation of the marine environment, with the goal of increasing the natural regeneration of resources and conserving characteristic ecosystems.

In the Balearic Islands there are twelve marine reserves, which cover a total of about 66,700 hectares of protected marine environment. The marine reserves can be found in Mallorca: **Bay of Palma**, **Migjorn de Mallorca**, **Levante de Mallorca**, **Freu de sa Dragonera**, and **Islas del Poniente de Mallorca, Toro, Malgrats and Sec**; in Menorca: **north Menorca** and **Isla del Aire**; and in Ibiza and Formentera: **Vedrá-Vedranell**; **ses Bledes**; **northeast coast of Ibiza-Tagomago**, **Freu de Ibiza** and **Freu de Formentera**, and **Punta de sa Creu**.

In general, small-scale traditional professional fishing, shellfishing, and recreational fishing are allowed. However, some marine reserves have special protection zones (complete reserves) in which removal of marine resources is prohibited, with the exception of duly authorised scientific study.

The marine reserves of the Balearic Islands with special protection zones are: Freu de Ibiza and Freu de Formentera, Bay of Palma, Migjorn de Mallorca, Llevant de Mallorca, north Menorca, northeast coast of Ibiza-Tagomago, Sa Dragonera and the western islands of Mallorca.



Fishing gear allowed in marine reserves

Within the marine reserves you can only practice recreational surface fishing, boat fishing and recreational shellfishing, although in the marine reserves of the Bay of Palma and Migjorn de Mallorca you can also practice underwater fishing.

In general, certain specified fishing gear and methods are allowed in the Balearic Islands' inland marine reserves. However, the reserves each have specific regulations that must be complied with, included in the pages of this fishing manual.

Fishing and shellfishing from land

Generally, shore fishing and shellfishing can only be practiced with the following fishing gear:

- Rod fishing, with or without a reel.
- Spin fishing.
- Triple hooks for cephalopods with a single artificial bait.
- Line fishing: up to six hooks with a minimum width of 7 mm.
- Spear fishing.
- Hand nets.
- Specific equipment for catching bait or "*puu*" (*babero*, rope, *bou* and stake).
- Traditional fishing gear like a cast net, *lienza*, *morenell* fishing baskets and the *moixonera*.

Los Calafats High Protection Area, Sa Dragonera Freu Marine Reserve.



Fishing and shellfishing from a boat

In general, fishing and shellfishing from a boat can only be practiced with the following fishing gear:

- Rod fishing, with or without a reel.
- Spin fishing.
- Surface trolling.
- *Fluixa*.
- Cephalopod triple hooks: one line per fisherman, with a maximum of two triple hooks.
- Line fishing: a single line per fisherman and up to four hooks, with a minimum width of 7 mm, except in the case of cleaver wrasse or *raor* fishing, when the hooks must be at least 5.7 mm.
- Essential gear to bring each catch on board, such as hand nets.

A specific license is required. [Link to the license.](#)

The owners of licensed vessels must provide the Directorate of Fisheries with their fishing records on a daily basis. Failure to submit this record will result in loss of license.

VERY IMPORTANT

- Jigging is not allowed.
- When fishing, the use of dynamic positioning to keep the boat in a fixed position without anchoring is not allowed.
- You cannot fish with live fish as bait.



CAPPESCA APP

The Cappesca app enables recreational boat anglers to report the catches made during their fishing trips within the Marine Reserves of the Balearic Islands.

The app also provides recreational anglers with useful information to help them comply with the regulations and enjoy a better fishing experience, including minimum landing sizes, species subject to catch limits, permitted and prohibited fishing methods within the Marine Reserves, and other relevant information.

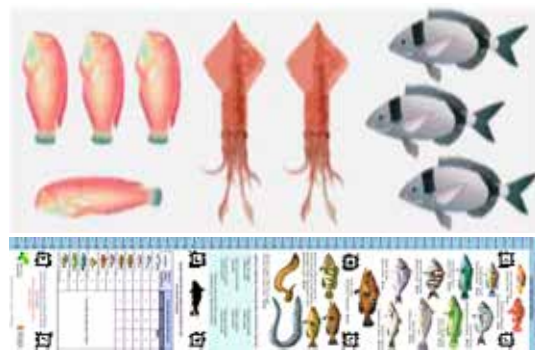
The app can be downloaded from:
<https://www.caib.es/cappescafront/>

Catch Reporting from Boats in Marine Reserves

The new fish measuring board features reference markers that, together with artificial intelligence, help estimate fish length and correctly identify most species.

How to take the photograph correctly:

1. Place the fish alongside the measuring board without covering it.
2. Ensure that both the catch and the measuring board are on the same plane.
3. Take the photograph from close range, ensuring that no part of the measuring board is obscured.



These images will enable catch reports to be processed quickly and will provide reliable data to help assess the status of marine resources and improve their management.

Underwater fishing

In general, underwater fishing is not allowed, except in the Marine Reserve of the Bay of Palma and in the Migjorn de Mallorca marine reserve, except for the area that coincides with the marine area of the Trenc-Salobrar de Campos land and maritime natural park.

In permitted reserves, a specific individual license is required, which is valid for one year and requires payment of a fee. This license can be obtained electronically at the following link: [underwater fishing license](#).

Fishermen must report their catches. They may also use the Recreational Fishing Logbook (Cappesca) app to report them.

Minimum sizes and catch quotas

In all the marine reserves in the inland waters of the Balearic Islands, there are established size limits when catching certain species during recreational fishing.

If a fisherman makes a catch that is smaller than the established size, it must be immediately returned to the sea, whether it is alive or dead.

Below are illustrations of the minimum sizes for fish in the marine reserves of the inland waters of the Balearic Islands:



Painted comber
Serranus scriba
14 cm



Black scorpionfish
Scorpaena porcus
19 cm



Gilthead seabream
Sparus aurata
35 cm



East Atlantic peacock wrasse
Symphodus tinca
18 cm



Black seabream
Spondyliosoma cantharus
20 cm



Brown wrasse
Labrus merula
25 cm



Labrus viridis
27 cm



Zebra seabream
Diplodus cervinus
30 cm



White grouper, Mottled grouper, Goldblotch grouper
Epinephelus aeneus, *Mycteroperca rubra*, *Epinephelus costae*
53 cm



Shi drum
Umbrina cirrosa
35 cm



European seabass
Dicentrarchus labrax
43 cm



Dusky grouper
Epinephelus marginatus
50 cm



Mediterranean moray and european conger
Muraena helena, *Conger conger*
95 cm



Illustrations: Xavier Canyelles

On the other hand, in marine reserves, the following maximum daily catch quotas must be met, depending on the species, type of license, and in the case of a boat license, the number of fishermen:

Common name in English/ Common name in Spanish/ <i>Scientific name</i>	Individual daily quota (underwater and shore)	Daily quota per vessel, according to number fishermen		
		One	Two	Three or more
European seabass / Lubina / <i>Dicentrarchus labrax</i>	1	1	1	1
Gilthead seabream/ Dorada / <i>Sparus aurata</i>	1	1	2	2
Common dentex/ Dentón <i>Dentex dentex</i>	1	1	2	3
Groupers / Meros <i>Epinephelus</i> spp. *	1	1	1	1
Mottled grouper / Gitano <i>Mycteroperca rubra</i>	1	1	1	1
Red scorpionfish/ Cabracho/ <i>Scorpaena scrofa</i>	1	One specimen per fisherman on board		
Brown meagre/ Corvallo <i>Sciaena umbra</i>	1			
Jonh dory / Pez de San Pedro <i>Zeus faber</i>	1			
Brown wrasse/ Merlo <i>Labrus merula</i>	1			
Bodi6n verde / <i>Labrus viridis</i>	1			
Zebra seabream/ Sargo breado <i>Diplodus cervinus</i>	1			

* All species known to be present in the Balearic Islands are included: *Epinephelus aeneus* (white grouper), *E. Epinephelus caninus* (dogtooth grouper), *Epinephelus costae* (goldblotch grouper) and *Epinephelus Marginatus* (dusky grouper)



Brown meagre (*Sciaena umbra*) have a daily catch limitation within marine reserves



The painted comber (*Serranus scriba*) has a minimum catch size in marine reserves.

Protected species

Apart from the species protected by state regulations ([pages 13 and 14](#)), European regulations and international conventions signed by the State, within the marine reserves of the internal waters of the Balearic Islands it is prohibited to deliberately capture, keep on board, transfer between boats, or land the following species:

<i>Scientific name</i>	<i>Common name</i>
<i>Scyliorhinus stellaris</i>	Nursehound
<i>Dasyatis centroura</i>	Roughtail stingray
<i>Torpedo torpedo</i>	Common torpedo
<i>Mustelus</i> spp. (totes les espècies)	Mustelus
<i>Aptерichтus anguiformis</i>	Slender finless eel
<i>Caecilia branderiana</i>	European finless eel
<i>Nerophis</i> spp. (totes les espècies)	Nerophis
<i>Syngnathus</i> spp. (totes les espècies)	Syngnathids
<i>Prionace glauca</i>	Blue shark
<i>Myliobatis aquila</i>	Common eagle ray
<i>Argyrosomus regius</i>	Meagre
<i>Maja squinado</i>	European spider crab
<i>Octopus macropus</i>	White-spotted octopus
<i>Astraea rugosa</i>	Bolma rugosa

If any specimens of these species are caught, they must be immediately released back into the sea, whether they are alive or dead.



BAY OF PALMA MARINE RESERVE

FISHING FROM LAND OR FROM A BOAT

Such fishing may be practiced on Tuesdays, Fridays, Saturdays, Sundays and bank holidays throughout the marine reserve, except in the Cabo Enderrocat Special Protection Zone.

You may fish with triple hooks or carry out surface trolling (*fluixa*) every day of the week.

When fishing from a boat, you must have a specific license, valid for three years, that you can apply for at the following link: [license for recreational fishing from a boat in marine reserves](#).

The owners of licensed vessels must provide the Directorate of Fisheries with their fishing records on a daily basis. Failure to submit this record will result in loss of license.

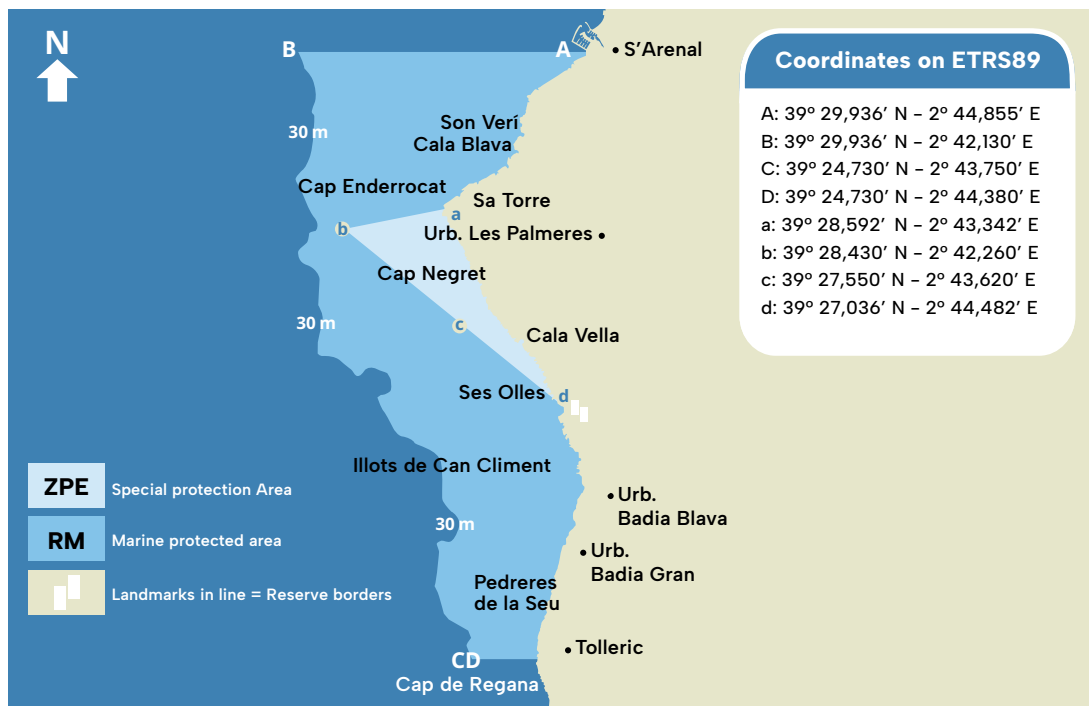
SPECIFIC REGULATION FOR FISHING EQUIPMENT

In addition to the general regulation described on [pages 32 to 34](#), please take into account the following specific regulation:

- Line or rod fishing: one line per fisherman.
- Spear fishing: only for daytime fishing.
- Cast net: the only traditional fishing gear permitted.

UNDERWATER FISHING

Underwater fishing is allowed outside the Special Protection Zone on Mondays, Tuesdays, Saturdays, Sundays and bank holidays.





MARINE RESERVE OF THE NORTH OF MENORCA

FISHING AND SHELLFISHING FROM LAND

Such fishing may be practiced on Tuesdays, Thursdays, Saturdays, Sundays and bank holidays throughout the marine reserve, except in the special protection zones and areas where fishing is prohibited.

FISHING FROM A BOAT

Such fishing may be practiced on Tuesdays, Thursdays, Saturdays, Sundays and bank holidays. You can fish with a triple hook every day. It is not permitted to fish in the special protection areas or areas where fishing is prohibited.

When fishing from a boat you must have a specific license, valid for three years, that you can apply for at the following link: [license for recreational fishing from a boat in marine reserves](#).

The owners of licensed vessels must provide the Directorate of Fisheries with their fishing records on a daily basis. Failure to submit this record will result in loss of license.

UNDERWATER FISHING:

Not allowed.

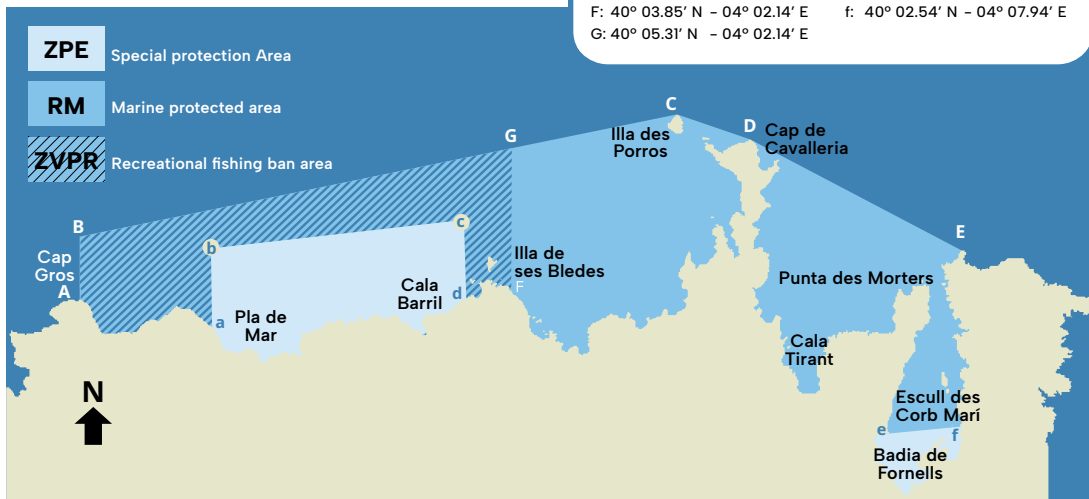
SPECIFIC REGULATION FOR FISHING EQUIPMENT

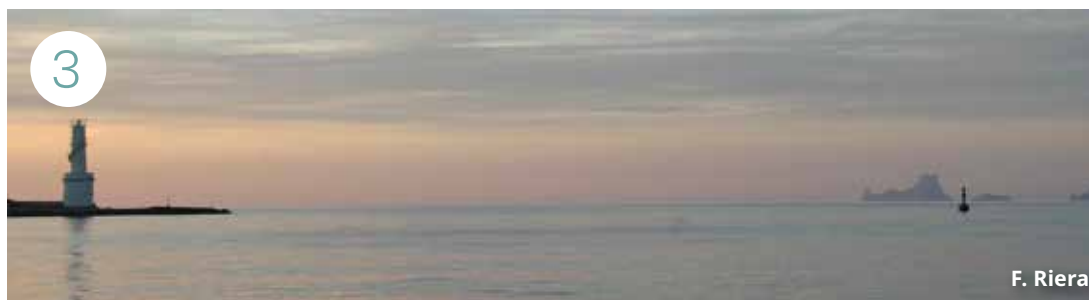
In addition to the general regulation described on [pages 32 to 34](#), please take into account the following specific regulation:

- Line or rod fishing: one line per fisherman.
- Spear fishing: only for daytime fishing.
- Cast net: allowed with the special authorisation of the Island Council of Menorca.
- *Puu* bait fishing: only one line and two *bous* per bait fisher.

Coordinates on ETRS89

A: 40° 03.75' N - 03° 56.07' E	a: 40° 03.42' N - 03° 58.05' E
B: 40° 04.34' N - 03° 56.07' E	b: 40° 04.23' N - 03° 58.05' E
C: 40° 05.68' N - 04° 04.53' E	c: 40° 04.45' N - 04° 01.65' E
D: 40° 05.38' N - 04° 05.57' E	d: 40° 03.76' N - 04° 01.65' E
E: 40° 04.18' N - 04° 08.48' E	e: 40° 02.22' N - 04° 07.428' E
F: 40° 03.85' N - 04° 02.14' E	f: 40° 02.54' N - 04° 07.94' E
G: 40° 05.31' N - 04° 02.14' E	





RESERVA MARINA DELS FREUS D'EIVISSA I FORMENTERA

FISHING FROM LAND OR FROM A BOAT

Such fishing may be practiced every day, except in special protection areas and except for any areas where fishing is not allowed.

When fishing from a boat, you must have a specific license, valid for three years, that you can apply for at the following link: [permit for recreational fishing from a boat in marine reserves](#).

The owners of licensed vessels must provide the Directorate of Fisheries with their fishing records on a daily basis. Failure to submit this record will result in loss of license.

SPORT FISHING COMPETITIONS

Not allowed.

SPECIFIC REGULATION FOR FISHING EQUIPMENT

In addition to the general regulation described on [pages 32 to 34](#), please take into account the following specific regulation:

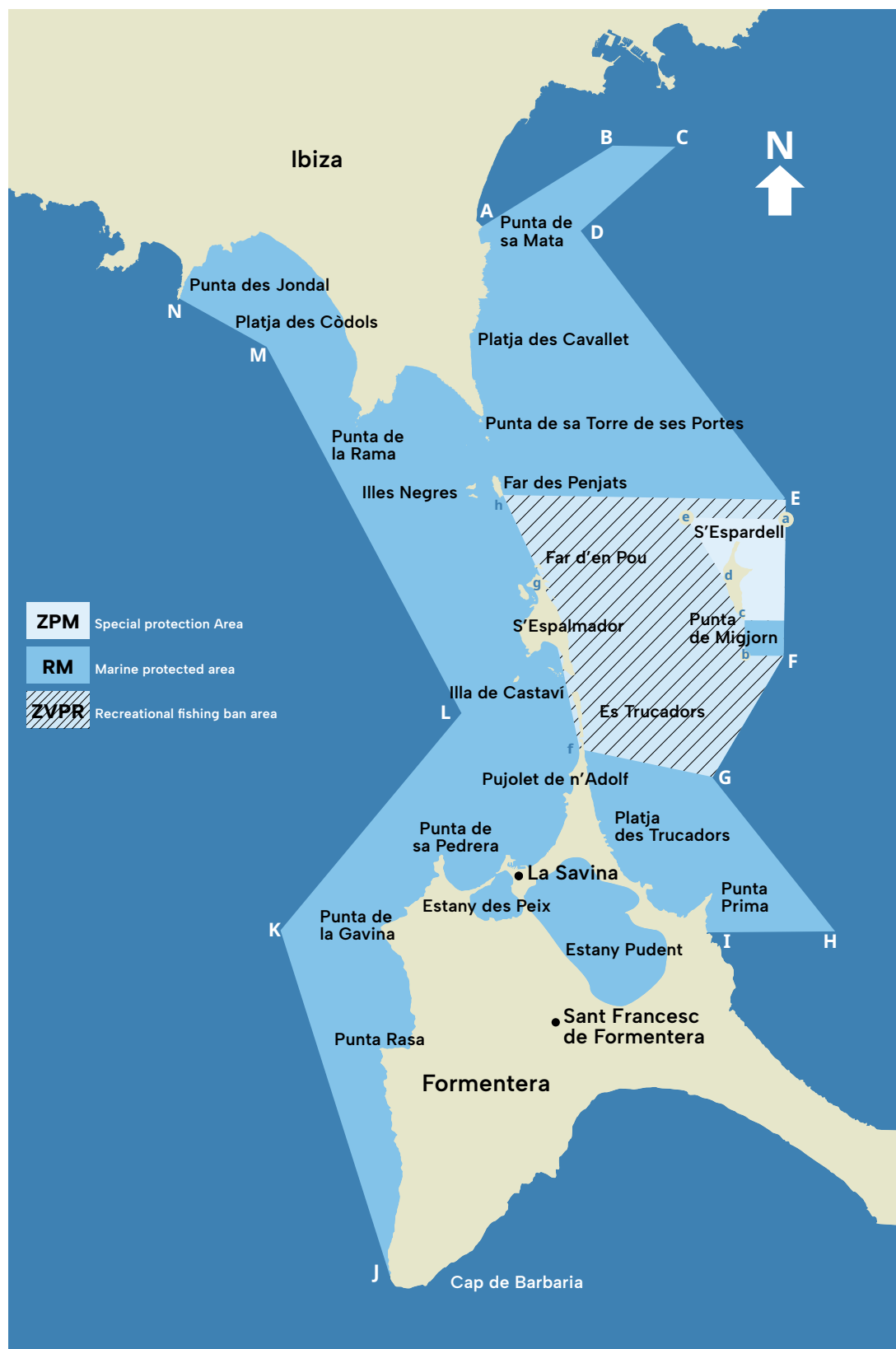
- Spear fishing: only for daytime fishing.
- Cast net: the only traditional fishing gear allowed with the special authorisation of the island councils of Ibiza or Formentera.
- Within the Estany des Peix, surface trolling and bottom fishing is not allowed.

UNDERWATER FISHING

Not allowed.

Coordinates on ETRS89

A: 38° 52'23,0"N - 01° 24'18,8"E	H: 38° 43'11,6"N - 01° 30'26,0"E	a: 38° 48'36,6"N - 01° 29'29,0"E
B: 38° 53'27,6"N - 01° 26'30,0"E	I: 38° 43'11,6"N - 01° 28'16,0"E	b: 38° 46'48,6"N - 01° 28'49,1"E
C: 38° 53'28,6"N - 01° 27'30,0"E	J: 38° 38'29,1"N - 01° 23'07,7"E	c: 38° 47'16,8"N - 01° 28'49,1"E
D: 38° 52'23,0"N - 01° 26'00,0"E	K: 38° 43'06,6"N - 01° 21'07,9"E	d: 38° 47'50,7"N - 01° 28'26,5"E
E: 38° 48'52,2"N - 01° 29'29,0"E	L: 38° 45'58,6"N - 01° 24'07,0"E	e: 38° 48'36,6"N - 01° 27'50,0"E
F: 38° 46'48,6"N - 01° 29'29,0"E	M: 38° 50'43,6"N - 01° 20'47,0"E	f: 38° 45'30,0"N - 01° 26'08,2"E
G: 38° 45'12,6"N - 01° 28'20,0"E	N: 38° 51'21,0"N - 01° 19'12,9"E	g: 38° 47'56,6"N - 01° 25'18,0"E
		h: 38° 48'52,2"N - 01° 24'42,4"E





MIGJORN DE MALLORCA MARINE RESERVE

FISHING FROM LAND OR FROM A BOAT

Such fishing may be practiced every day, except in the Special Protection Zone of Cala Figuereta and in the areas where fishing is not allowed.

When fishing from a boat, you must have a specific license, valid for three years, that you can apply for at the following link: [license for recreational fishing from a boat in marine reserves](#).

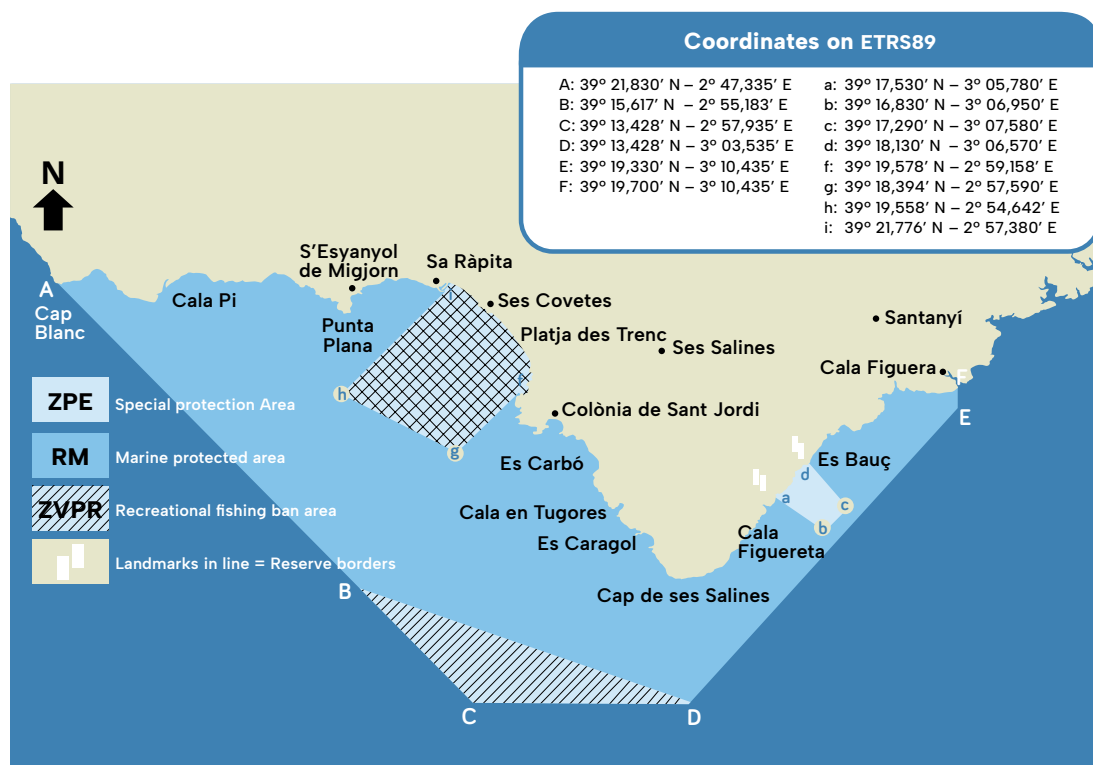
The owners of licensed vessels must provide the Directorate of Fisheries with their fishing records on a daily basis. Failure to submit this record will result in loss of permit.

UNDERWATER FISHING

Such fishing may be practiced on Mondays, Tuesdays, Saturdays, Sundays and bank holidays, except in the Cala Figuereta Special Protection Zone, the area where recreational fishing is banned, and the area of the marine reserve that overlaps with the Es Trenc-Salobrar de Campos land and maritime natural park.

SPORT FISHING COMPETITIONS

Fishing competitions are only allowed when no fish will be killed, with prior authorisation.





MARINE RESERVE OF THE ISLANDS OF PONIENTE DE MALLORCA, EL TORO, LAS MALGRATS AND EL SEC

FISHING AND SHELLFISHING FROM LAND

Permitted, except in the islets and the area between Cala de s'Art and Morro de Feliu, and except in the High Protection Areas of Isla del Toro and Isla del Sec. Permitted within the High Protection Area of the Malgrats islands between 1 January and 30 April.

UNDERWATER FISHING

Not allowed.

SPORT FISHING COMPETITIONS

Not allowed.

FISHING AND SHELLFISHING FROM A BOAT

Permitted, except in the High Protection Areas of Isla del Toro and Isla del Sec. Permitted In the High Protection Area of the Malgrats islands from 1 October to 30 April (line fishing) and from 1 October to 31 December (triple hooks for cephalopods).

When fishing from a boat you must have a specific license, valid for three years, that you can apply for at the following link: [license for recreational fishing from a boat in marine reserves](#).

The owners of licensed vessels must provide the Directorate of Fisheries with their fishing records on a daily basis. Failure to submit this record will result in loss of license.

Vessel speed is regulated within the high-protection zones of El Toro Island and the Malgrats Islands.



Illa del Toro High Protection Zone



Illes Malgrats High Protection Zone

SPECIFIC REGULATION FOR FISHING EQUIPMENT

In addition to the general regulation described on [pages 32 to 34](#), please take into account the following specific regulations:

Fishing gear and types of fishing allowed from land

In the Marine Reserve, except in the islets, the High Protection Area of Isla del Toro and the coastal area between Cala de s'Art and Morro de Feliu:

- Rod or line fishing: up to two lines per fisherman and six hooks with a minimum width of 7 mm.
- Triple hooks: one line per fisherman.
- Spin fishing.
- Traditional equipment, with specific authorisation.
- Spear fishing.
- Hand nets.
- *Puu* bait fishing.

In the High Protection Area of the Malgrats islands:

- Rod: one line per fisherman and six hooks with a minimum width of 7 mm.

Fishing gear and types of fishing allowed from a boat

Marine reserve (except in the High Protection Areas of Isla del Toro and Isla del Sec):

- Rod or line fishing: one line per fisherman with a maximum of four hooks, which must be at least 7 mm wide, except in the case of cleaver wrasse or *raor* fishing, which must be at least 5.7 mm.
- Triple hooks: one line per fisherman, with a maximum of two triple hooks.
- Surface trolling (*fluixa*): a maximum of two lines per vessel.
- Bottom fishing: one line per vessel.
- Spin fishing.

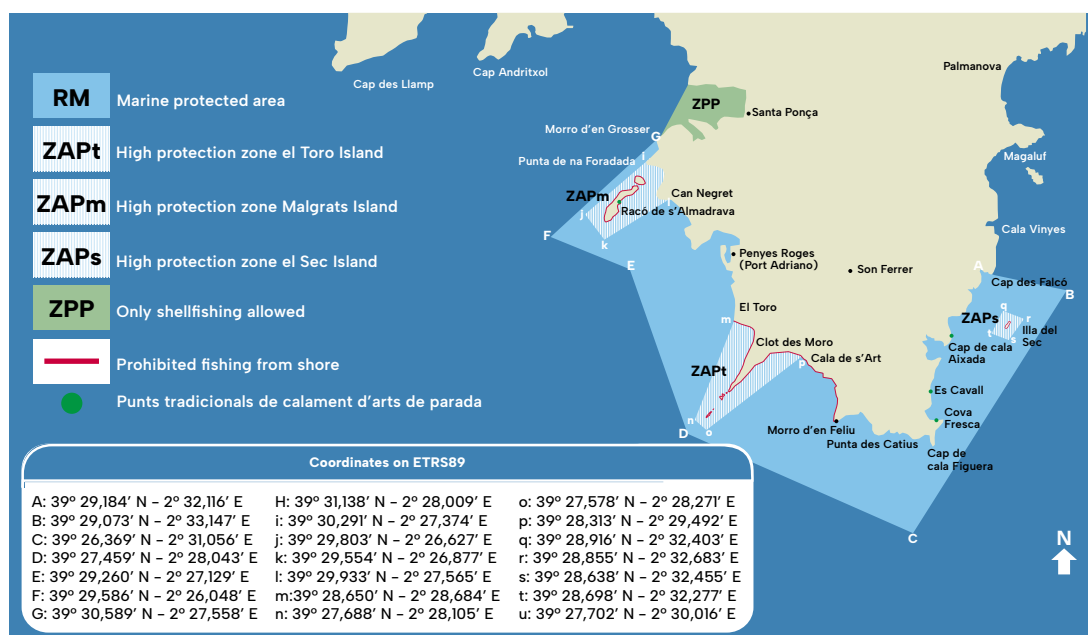
High Protection Area of the Malgrats islands:

- Rod or line fishing: one line per fisherman with a maximum of four hooks, which must be at least 7 mm wide, except in the case of cleaver wrasse or *raor* fishing, which must be at least 5.7 mm.
- Triple hooks: one line per fisherman, with a maximum of two triple hooks.

VERY IMPORTANT

Currently, in the new fishing protection zone in the Bay of Santa Ponça, any and all forms of fishing are banned until the Ministry establishes a fishing plan, with the following exceptions:

- Recreational fishing and shellfishing from the coast.
- Recreational shellfishing from a boat.
- Professional net fishing (*Jonquillera*).





LLEVANT DE MALLORCA MARINE RESERVE

Recreational fishing can be practiced on Tuesdays, Thursdays, Saturdays, Sundays and bank holidays. It is not permitted to fish in the Special Protection Zone.

To fish from a boat, you need to have a specific license, which is valid for three years. This license can be issued by both the Directorate General of Fisheries and the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries of the Government

Delegation of Spain Both allow fishing both in the area of the Marine Reserve governed by the autonomous community and in the Spanish outer waters.

You can apply for the license from the Directorate General at the following link: [license for recreational fishing from a boat in marine reserves](#).

The owners of licensed vessels must provide the Directorate of Fisheries with their fishing records on a daily basis. Failure to submit this record will result in loss of license.

SPORT FISHING COMPETITIONS

Not allowed.

UNDERWATER FISHING

Not allowed.

SPECIFIC REGULATION ON FISHING GEAR IN THE AREA GOVERNED BY THE AUTONOMOUS COMMUNITY (INLAND WATERS)

In addition to the general regulation described on [pages 32 to 34](#), please take into account the following specific regulation:

- Bottom fishing and surface trolling (*fluixa*) in the traditional way of the Balearic Islands: a maximum of two lines per vessel.
- Cephalopod triple hooks: between sunrise and sunset.
- Cast net: the only traditional fishing gear permitted.
- Spin fishing is not allowed.
- Spear fishing is not allowed.

SPECIFIC REGULATION ON FISHING GEAR IN THE AREA UNDER SPANISH CONTROL (OUTER WATERS)

You can only fish between sunrise and sunset, except with a triple hook, which is allowed up to one hour before sunrise and one hour after sunset.

Live fish cannot be used as bait.

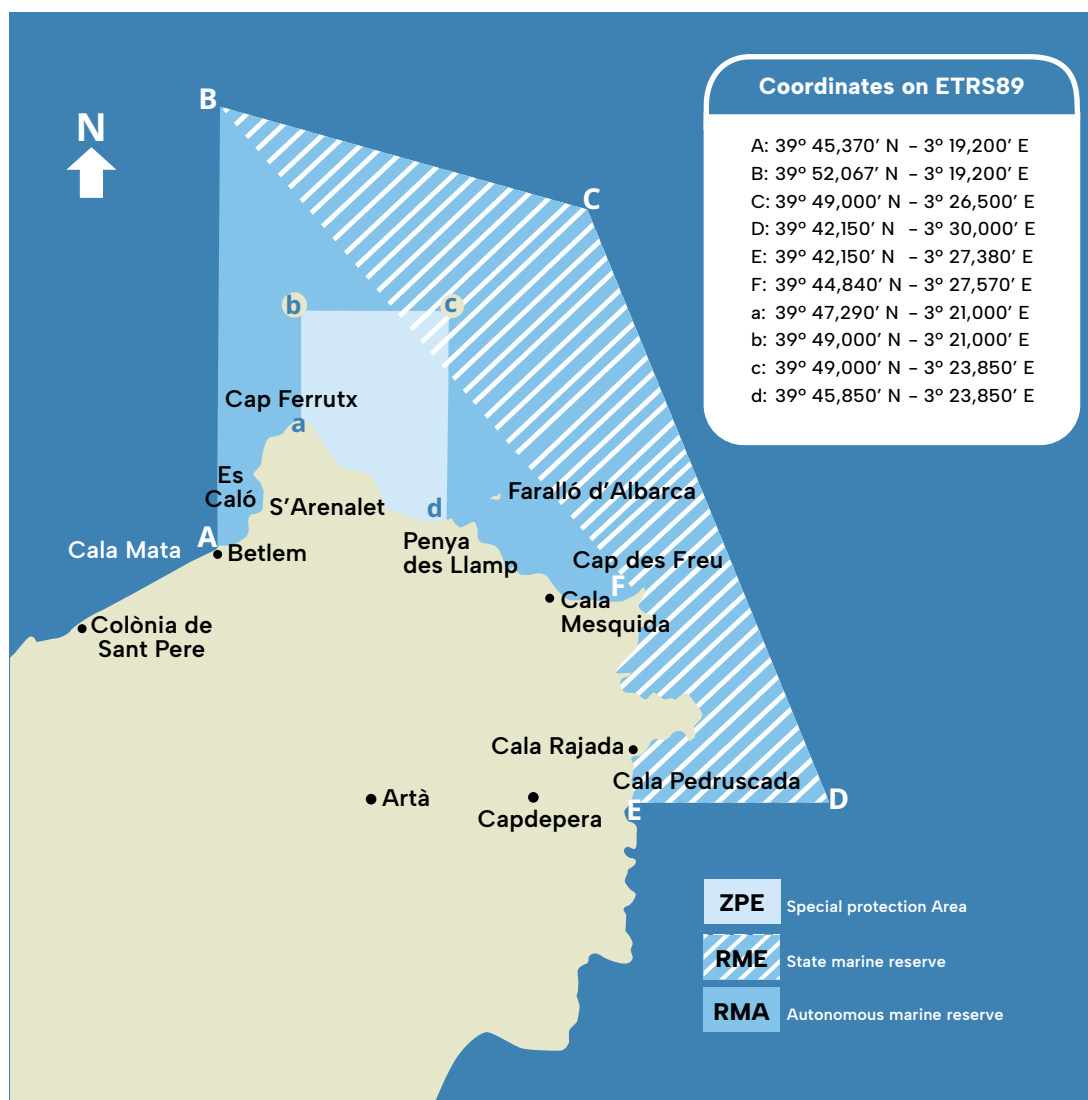
FISHING FROM LAND

- A single rod per fisherman and a maximum of four hooks with a minimum width of 7 mm. *Puu* bait fishing is allowed.
- Spin fishing is not allowed.

FISHING AND SHELLFISHING FROM A BOAT (OUTER WATERS)

Only the following types of fishing are allowed:

- *Fluixa* or surface trolling with the traditional methods of the Balearic Islands, with a maximum of two lines per vessel.
- Triple hooks, with a maximum of two per line and up to four lines per vessel.
- Rod or line fishing for painted combers, at a minimum depth of 35 m outside the area covered by posidonia. A single rod or line is allowed per fisherman, and up to four per vessel, and a maximum of four hooks per line, which must be at least 7 mm wide, except in the case of cleaver wrasse or *raor* fishing, which must be at least 5.7 mm.
- Jigging and spin fishing are not allowed
- No anchored fishing.





FREU DE SA DRAGONERA MARINE RESERVE (INLAND WATERS)

FISHING FROM LAND

Fishing from land is allowed, except on the coast of the island of Sa Dragonera and the islets.

FISHING AND SHELLFISHING FROM A BOAT

Fishing and shellfishing from a boat is allowed, except in the High Protection Area of the Calafats.

When fishing from a boat you must have a specific license, valid for three years, that you can apply for at the following link: [license for recreational fishing from a boat in marine reserves](#).

The owners of licensed vessels must provide the Directorate of Fisheries with their fishing records on a daily basis. Failure to submit this record will result in loss of license.

Vessel speed is regulated.

SPECIFIC REGULATION FOR FISHING EQUIPMENT

In addition to the general regulation described on [pages 32 to 34](#), please take into account the following specific regulation:

- Surface trolling (*fluixa*): up to two lines per vessel.
- Bottom fishing: one line per vessel

SPORT FISHING COMPETITIONS

Not allowed.

UNDERWATER FISHING

Not allowed.



SA DRAGONERA MARINE RESERVE (OUTER WATERS)

FISHING FROM LAND

Not allowed.

FISHING FROM A BOAT

Such fishing may be practiced on Tuesdays, Thursdays, Saturdays, Sundays and national bank holidays. It is not permitted to fish in the strict reserve areas or the restricted fishing areas.

You cannot fish from floating equipment.

Neither live fish nor live cephalopods may be used as bait.

You must have a specific license, which is valid for one year.

The owners of licensed vessels must report their fishing records on a daily basis.

PERMITTED FISHING GEAR AND TYPES OF FISHING

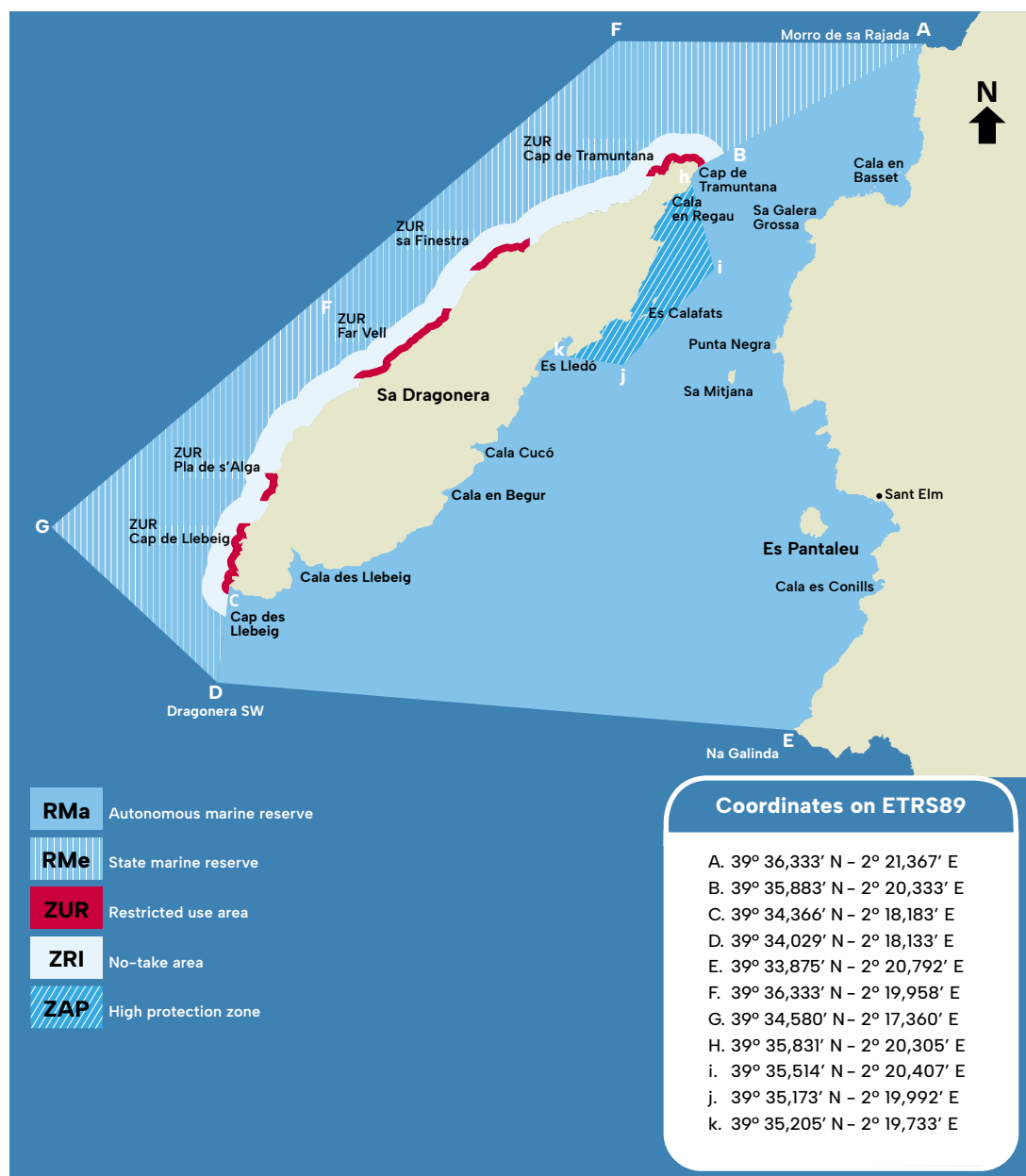
- Line or rod fishing: one line per fisherman and up to four hooks. Hooks must have a width greater than 7 mm and less than 9 mm.
- Surface trolling (*fluixa*): up to two lines per vessel without weights. At a maximum of 3 knots of speed.

SPORT FISHING COMPETITIONS

Not allowed.

UNDERWATER FISHING

Not allowed.





PUNTA DE SA CREU MARINE RESERVE

FISHING FROM LAND

Only use of a cast net is allowed.

VERY IMPORTANT

Live fish and cephalopods cannot be used as bait.

FISHING AND SHELLFISHING FROM A BOAT

Fishing and shellfishing from a boat is only allowed between 1 July and 31 March, from 10 m deep.

When fishing from a boat you must have a specific license, valid for three years, that you can apply for at the following link: [license for recreational fishing from a boat in marine reserves](#).

The owners of licensed vessels must provide the Directorate of Fisheries with their fishing records on a daily basis. Failure to submit this record will result in loss of license.

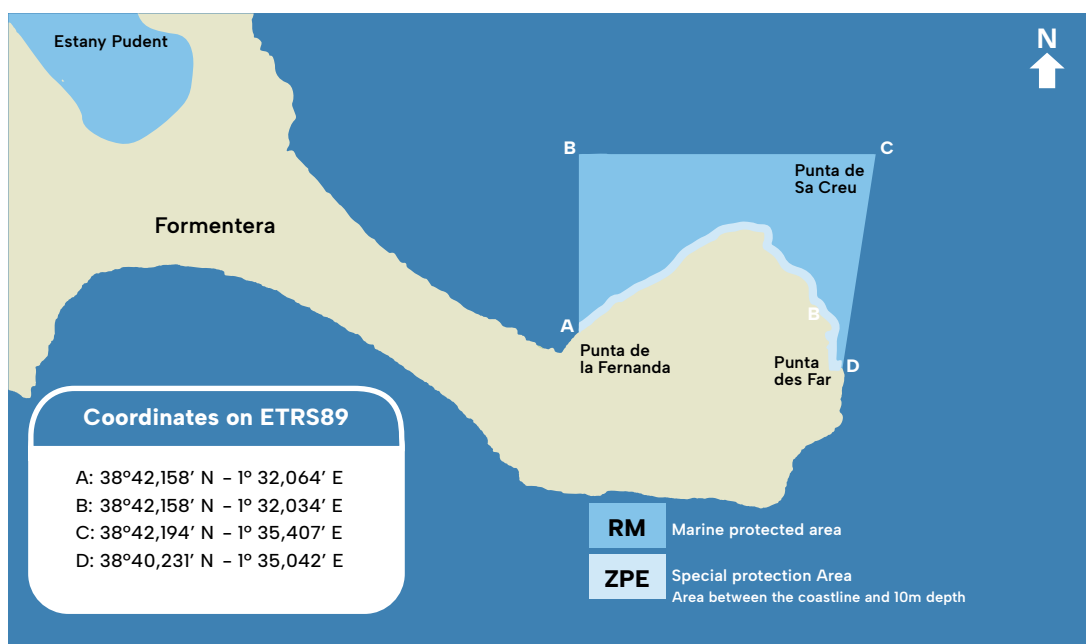
UNDERWATER FISHING

Not allowed.

PERMITTED FISHING GEAR AND TYPES OF FISHING

In addition to the general regulation described on [pages 32 to 34](#), please take into account the following specific regulation:

- Cast net (from land).
- Line or rod fishing.
- Triple hook.
- Surface trolling (*fluixa*): up to two lines per vessel





MARINE RESERVE OF THE NORTH COAST OF IBIZA-TAGOMAGO

FISHING FROM LAND

Allowed.

FISHING AND SHELLFISHING FROM A BOAT

Fishing and shellfishing from a vessel is allowed, except in the strict reserve area.

When fishing from a boat you must have a specific license, valid for three years, that you can apply for at the following link: [license for recreational fishing from a boat in marine reserves](#).

The owners of licensed vessels must provide the Directorate of Fisheries with their fishing records on a daily basis. Failure to submit this record will result in loss of license.

UNDERWATER FISHING

Not allowed.

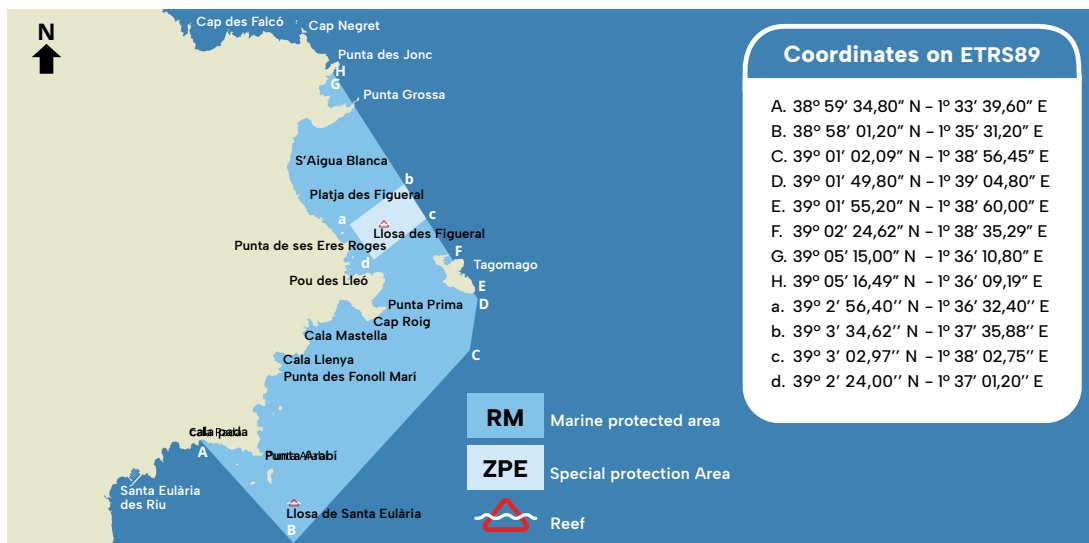
PERMITTED FISHING GEAR AND TYPES OF FISHING

In addition to the general regulation described on [pages 32 to 34](#), please take into account the following specific regulation:

- Line or rod fishing.
- Triple hook.
- Cast net, morenell and lienza: with the special authorisation of the Ibiza Island Council.
- Surface trolling (*fluixa*): up to two lines per vessel.

VERY IMPORTANT

- Neither live fish nor live cephalopods may be used as bait.
- Catching any marine invertebrate, except cephalopods (squid, octopus, cuttlefish), is prohibited.





MARINE RESERVE OF THE ISLA DEL AIRE

FISHING AND SHELLFISHING FROM A BOAT

Permitted, except in the Special Diving Area.

In addition to the general regulation described on [pages 32 to 34](#), please take into account the following specific regulations:

- Line or rod fishing: one line per fisherman.
- Triple hook.
- Surface trolling (*fluixa*): a maximum of two lines per vessel.

Surface trolling (*fluixa*) and line fishing is allowed on Tuesdays, Thursdays, Saturdays, Sundays and bank holidays.

Triple hooks can be used every day.

Live fish and cephalopods cannot be used as bait.

You must have a specific license, valid for three years, that you can apply for at the following link: [license for recreational fishing from a boat in marine reserves](#).

The owners of licensed vessels must provide the Directorate of Fisheries with their fishing records on a daily basis. Failure to submit this record will result in loss of license.

Vessel speed is regulated.

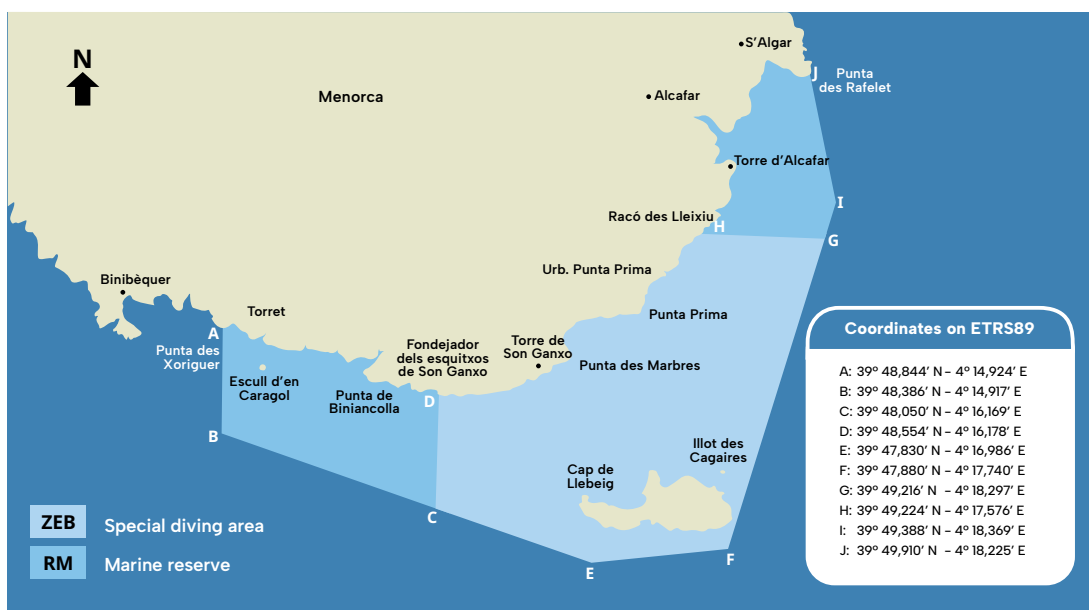
FISHING FROM LAND

Permitted, except on the Isla del Aire. In the Special Diving Area, you may only fish with a rod, with or without reel.

The rest of the Marine Reserve can be fished as indicated on [pages 31 and 32](#).

UNDERWATER FISHING

Not allowed.





SES BLEDES MARINE RESERVE

LAND FISHING (FROM THE ISLETS)

Not allowed.

UNDERWATER FISHING

Not allowed.

FISHING AND SHELLFISHING FROM A BOAT

Permitted, except in the Special Protection Zone of the Islands of Na Bosc and Na Gorra.

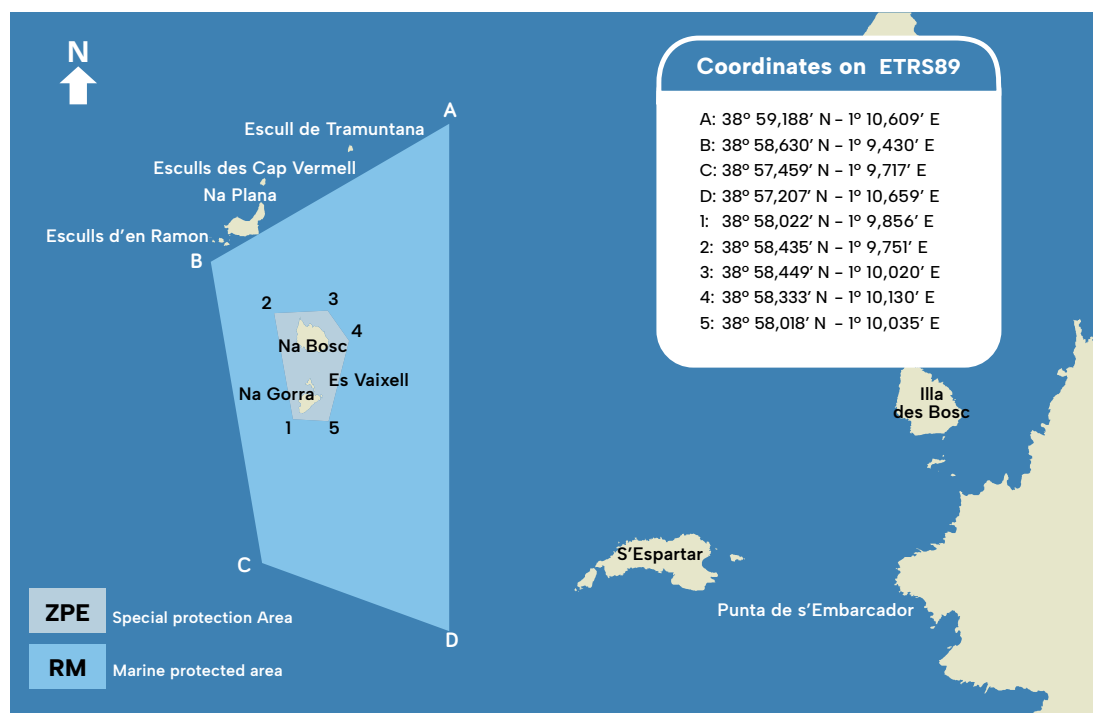
In addition to the general regulation described on [pages 32 to 34](#), please take into account the following specific regulations:

- Line or rod fishing: one line per fisherman.
- Triple hook.
- Surface trolling (*fluixa*): a maximum of two lines per vessel.
- Bottom fishing: one line per vessel..

Live fish and cephalopods cannot be used as bait.

When fishing from a boat you must have a specific license, valid for three years, that you can apply for at the following link: [license for recreational fishing from a boat in marine reserves](#).

The owners of licensed vessels must provide the Directorate of Fisheries with their fishing records on a daily basis. Failure to submit this record will result in loss of license.





DES VEDRÀ-VEDRANELL MARINE RESERVE

LAND FISHING (FROM THE ISLETS)

Not allowed.

UNDERWATER FISHING

Not allowed.

FISHING AND SHELLFISHING FROM A BOAT

Allowed.

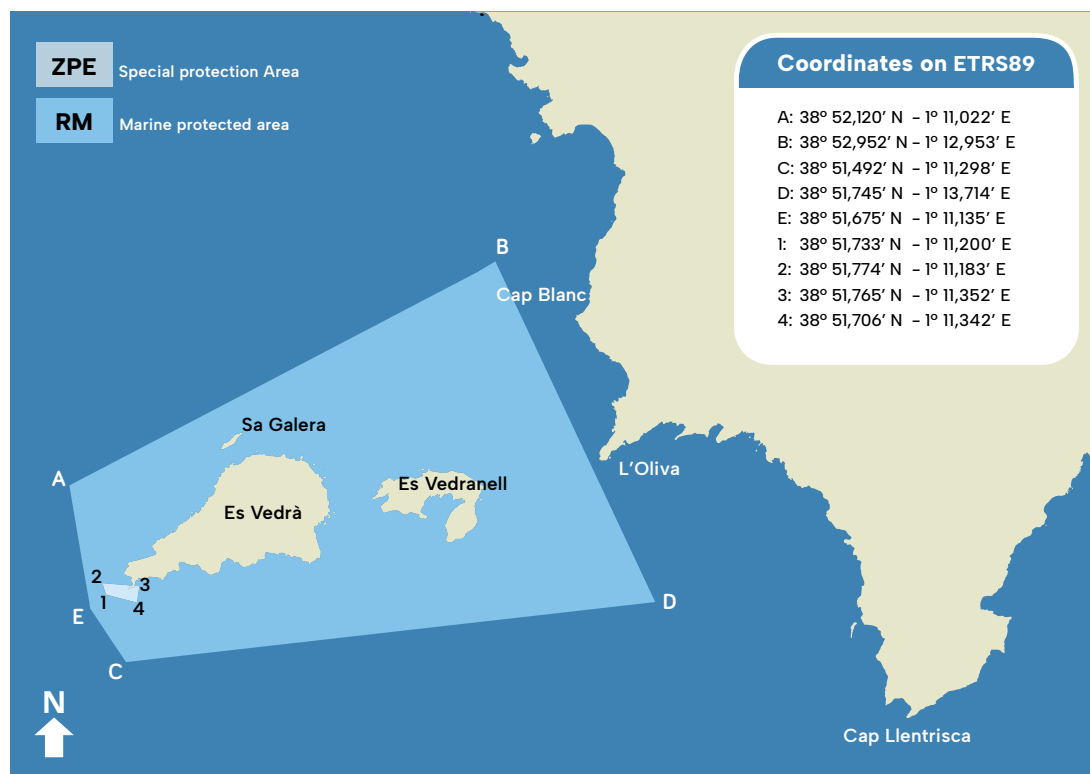
In addition to the general regulation described on [pages 32 to 34](#), please take into account the following specific regulations:

- Line or rod fishing: one line per fisherman.
- Triple hook.
- Surface trolling (*fluixa*): up to two lines per vessel.
- Bottom fishing: one line per vessel.

Live fish and cephalopods cannot be used as bait.

You must have a specific license, valid for three years, that you can apply for at the following link: [license for recreational fishing from a boat in marine reserves](#).

The owners of licensed vessels must provide the Directorate of Fisheries with their fishing records on a daily basis. Failure to submit this record will result in loss of license.



MARK AND RECAPTURE PROJECTS

What are they?

These are projects in which fish are tagged and then released back into the sea. The recapture of a tagged individual can give us information about range of movement, growth, population size, and other biological parameters.

How might this affect you?

The participation of recreational fisherman is essential in these projects, as it is likely they will catch a tagged fish. How you react following a capture is of vital importance for the success of the project.

What should you do if you catch a marked specimen?

The catch must be recorded and notified to the General Directorate of Fisheries. The people in charge of the project will pick up the records. In addition, you must note down the position, the fishing gear used, the depth, date, time and, if possible, the type of seabed.

Fishermen who provide this information will receive a small gift. The catch can also be released alive, once the information has been noted

Project currently underway:

"Evaluation of the population of greater amberjack, *Seriola dumerili*"

The Directorate General of Fisheries, with the collaboration of the Island Council of Ibiza, has marked a few hundred greater amberjacks in the Pitiusas islands in order to find out more about their dispersion patterns.

The fish bear an external mark with a telephone number, which should be called in case of recapture. Fishermen are rewarded with a T-shirt or cap for notifying of recapture.

Area under study: Ibiza and Formentera.



RARE SPECIES

Over the last 25 years, there have been notable changes in the fish populations of the Balearic Islands. Some species have become more rare, while other new species have been observed. These changes are an indicator of global warming, particularly in the waters of the Mediterranean.

The new species that appear in the Balearic Sea are southern, tropical or subtropical, and have two origins: the southeast Atlantic, and the Indian Ocean. The phenomenon of the tropicalisation of the Mediterranean has occurred through the arrival of Atlantic species via Gibraltar, and of Indian species via the Suez Canal (*Lessepsian migration*).

Species that are exceptional or highly unique have population numbers that are almost irrelevant. However, any population changes should be studied. Some examples of the almost fifty new species detected in our waters are fish from the Serranidae family, such as *Epinephelus aeneus* and *Serranus atricauda*, or from the Sparidae family, such as *Diplodus cervinus* and *Pagrus caeruleostictus*. Other rare species include: *Campogramma glaycos*, *Lobotes surinamensis*, *Kyphosus sectatrix*, *Sparisoma cretense*, *Luvarus imperialis*, *Psenes pellucidus*, and more.

To highlight this phenomenon and manage marine resources as well as possible, the Directorate General of Fisheries keeps continuously updated records of rare species caught by both professional and recreational fishermen.

In order to gain further understanding of this phenomenon, we ask for all recreational fishermen to report any catches of rare species using the form that appears in the following link: [rare fish datat](#).



The Mediterranean parrotfish (*Sparisoma cretense*) has been spotted on our coastline in recent years



Lobotes surinamensis

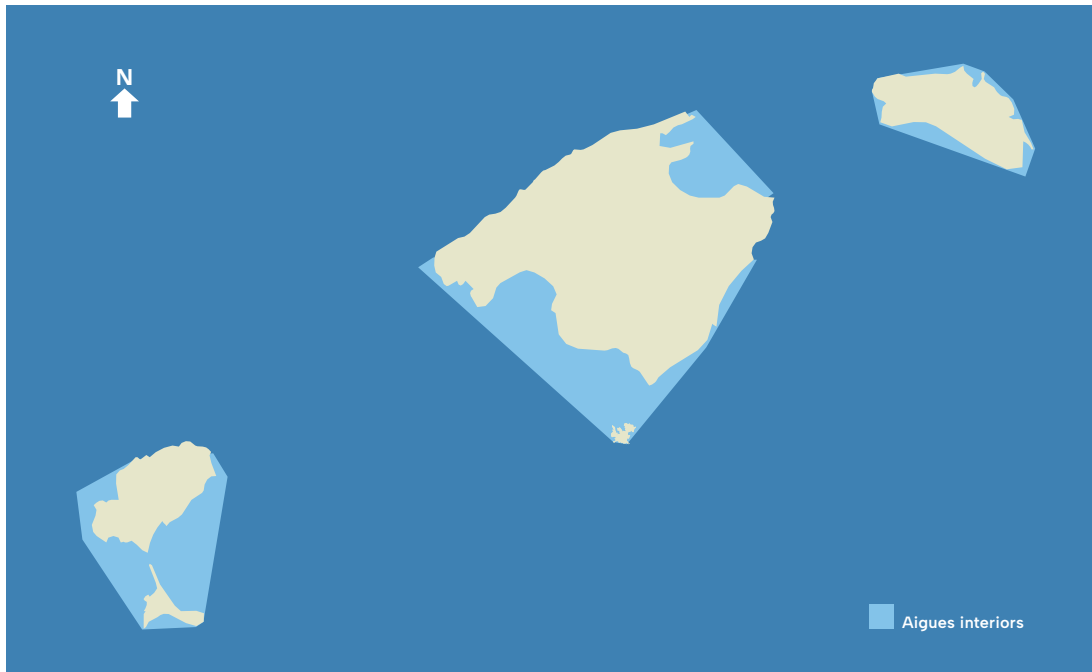


The lesser amberjack (*Seriola fasciata*)

WHAT ARE INLAND AND OUTER WATERS?

Inland and outer waters are defined by an imaginary line that joins different points along the coast. The distinction between these waters establishes which public authority has competence of the area. Inland waters are the responsibility of the regional authorities—the Government of the Balearic Islands and the Island Councils, in our case—, while the outer waters are the responsibility of the Spanish government.

The basic regulations are the same for all waters, but some special regulations apply in the inland waters of the Balearic Islands.



BASIC REGULATIONS

Recreational Fishing and Shellfishing

Law 6/2013, of 7 November, on sea fishing, shellfishing and aquaculture in the Balearic Islands (BOIB no. 156, of 13 November, 2013) and subsequent amendments.

Decree 34/2014, of 1 August, laying down the general principles of recreational and sport fishing in the inland waters of the Balearic Islands (BOIB no. 104, of 2 August, 2014) and subsequent amendments.

Royal Decree 347/2011, of 11 March, regulating recreational sea fishing in external waters (Official State Gazette no. 81, of 5 April, 2011).

Royal Decree 214/2026 of 18 March, regulating the submission of applications, declarations and notifications by electronic means in Marine Reserves of Fishing Interest and for recreational fishing.

Decree 41/2015, of 22 May, which governs the extraction of marine flora or fauna and underwater activities in the marine reserves of the inland waters of the coast of the Balearic Islands (BOIB no. 77, of 23 May, 2015) and subsequent amendments.

Decree 31/2021, of 31 May, which governs professional and recreational shellfishing in the Balearic Islands and amends Decree 19/2019, of 15 March, which establishes the multi-island management plan for traditional net fishing in the waters of the Balearic Islands (BOIB no. 71, of 1 June, 2021) and subsequent amendments.

Order of the Minister of Agriculture, Trade and Industry of 15 June 1999 implementing Decree 69/1999, of 4 June, on sport and recreational fishing, relating to the use of traditional equipment for recreational fishing in the inland waters of the Balearic Islands (BOCAIB no. 81, of 24 June, 1999).

Order of the Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries of 11 April 2000 declaring periods of fishing bans on the cleaver wrasse or *raor* (*Xyrichthys novacula*), and on the juvenile class 0 of the greater amberjack (*Seriola dumerili*), in the inland waters of the Balearic Islands (BOCAIB no. 52, of 25 April, 2000).

Resolution of the Directorate General of Fisheries of 16 September 2004 establishing the list of areas suitable for the use of traditional recreational fishing gear in the inland waters of the Balearic Islands (BOIB no. 148, of 23 October, 2004).

Royal Decree 560/1995, of 7 April, establishing the minimum sizes of certain fishing species (BOE no. 84, of 8 April, 1995).

Order APA/831/2005, of 30 March, establishing a temporary ban on fishing for cleaver wrasse *raor* and greater amberjack (*Seriola*) in the outer waters of the Balearic Islands (BOE no. 79, of 2 April, 2005).

Regulation (EC) No. 1967/2006 of 21 December 2006 on measures to manage sustainable fishing in the Mediterranean Sea and amending Regulation (EEC) No. 2847/93 and repealing Regulation (EC) No. 1626/94 (OJEU 409, of 30 December 2006) and subsequent amendments.

Regulation (EC) No. 643/2007 of the Council, of 11 June 2007 amending Regulation (EC) No. 41/2007 regarding the recovery plan for bluefin tuna recommended by the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (OJEU 151, 13 June 2007).

Order ARM/2689/2009, of 28 September, prohibiting the capture of sharks of the family Alopiidae and the family Sphyrnidae (BOE no. 240, of 4 October, 2009).

Royal Decree 139/2011, of 4 February, on the distribution of the list of wild species under special protection and the Spanish Catalogue of threatened species (BOE no. 46, of 23 February, 2011).

Order of the Minister of Agriculture, Environment and Territory of 13 June 2012 regulating the collection of sea urchins in the waters of the Balearic Islands (BOIB no. 92, of 26 June, 2012).

Royal Decree 46/2019, of 8 February, regulating tuna fishing in the Eastern Atlantic and the Mediterranean (BOE no. 35, of 9 February, 2019).

Law 2/2017, of 27 June, on the declaration of the Trenc-Salobrar de Campos maritime and land natural park (BOIB no. 81, of 4 June, 2017)

Decree 45/2024, of 8 October, which establishes the general principles of recreational charter sea fishing in the inland waters of the Balearic Islands and modifies Decree 45/2018 of the marine reserve of the northeast coast of Ibiza-Tagomago and Decree 25/2023 of the marine reserves of Ses Bledes and Es Vedrà-Vedranell (BOIB No. 137, of 19 October, 2024).

Resolution of the Directorate General of Fisheries of 5 February, 2025 establishing maximum catch quotas for recreational fishing by license and day, of certain fish species in the Balearic Islands (BOIB No. 18, of 5 February, 2025).

Order 6/2025 of the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and the Natural Environment, of 6 March, regulating vessel speed and establishing a High Protection Area around the islets of Los Calafats, within the Freu de sa Dragonera marine reserve, and amending the Order by the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries of 8 September 2008 declaring a minimum fishing ban period for cleaver wrasse or *raor* (*Xyrichtys novacula*) in the inland waters of the Balearic Islands (BOIB no. 31, of 11 March, 2025).

Order 17/2025, of 26 June, which establishes a minimum catch size for the common smooth-hound (*Mustelus mustelus*) and increases the minimum catch size for recreational fishing of the greater amberjack (*Seriola dumerili*) and the scorpionfish (*Scorpaena scrofa*) in the territory and inland waters of the Balearic Islands (BOIB no. 83, of 28 June, 2025).

Marine reserve regulations.

To find out more about the regulations in different marine reserves, check the CAIB website. Each reserve has a dedicated section with its specific regulations. [Link to the marine reserves website.](#)

ADDRESSES AND TELEPHONE NUMBERS OF INTEREST

Directorate General of Fisheries

C/ de la Reina Constança, 4
07006 Palma
Tel: (+34) 971 17 61 00
website: Directorate General

Island Council of Menorca

Plaza de la Biosfera, 5
07703 Maó
Tel: (+34) 971 35 60 50
Website: <http://www.cime.es>

Island Council of Ibiza

Avenida de España, 49
07800 Ibiza
Tel: (+34) 971 19 59 00
ax: (+34) 971 19 59 13
Website: <http://www.conselldeivissa.es>

Island Council of Formentera

Plaza de la Constitución, 1
07860 Sant Francesc
Tel: (+34) 971 32 10 87, Fax: (+34) 971 32 25 56
Website:
<http://www.consellinsulardeformentera.cat>

Fogaiba Campos

Avenida Nicolau Oliver Fullana, 30
07630 Campos
Tel: (+34) 971 17 78 92
Fax: (+34) 971 17 68 71

Fogaiba Felanitx

Paseo de Ramon Llull, 19
07200 Felanitx
Tel: (+34) 971 17 60 87
Fax: (+34) 971 17 68 71

Fogaiba Inca

C/ dels Sallers, 25 (Centre Bit)
07300 Inca
Tel: (+34) 971 17 78 80
Fax: (+34) 971 17 68 71

Fogaiba Manacor

Vía Portugal, 41 bj.
07500 Manacor
Tel: (+34) 971 17 78 96
Fax: (+34) 971 17 68 71

Fogaiba sa Pobla

Ctra. sa Pobla Muro, Km.1,5
(Pol. de Sa Vileta) 07420 sa Pobla
Tel: (+34) 971 17 60 83
Fax: (+34) 971 17 68 71

Fogaiba Palma

C/ d'Eusebi Estada, 145
07009 Palma
Tel: (+34) 971 17 77 08
Fax: (+34) 971 17 68 71

Ses Salines de Ibiza and Formentera Natural Park, and the Nature Reserves of Es Vedrá, Es Vedranell and the islets of Ponent

C/ de Murcia, 6
07800 Ibiza
Tel: (+34) 971 17 76 88

The land and maritime national park in the Cabrera archipelago

C/ del Gremi de Corredors, 10.
Pol. Son Rossinyol 07009 Palma
Tel: (+34) 971 17 61 00

Department of Fisheries of the Government Delegation of Spain

C/ de Felicià Fuster, 7
07006 Palma
Tel: (+34) 971 98 94 25/971 98 94 20

Guardia Civil (Police)

Tel: 062

Emergency number

Tel: 112

Secretariat General of Fisheries

C/ Velázquez, 144
28006 Madrid
Tel: (+34) 91 347 19 49
Fax: (+34) 91 347 15 12

Llevant de Mallorca Marine Reserve (Spanish govt.)

Tel: (+34) 606 22 66 01

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

How can I obtain authorisation to catch species subject to special protection (Annex II)? Authorisation can only be obtained through the Ministry's PescaREC app.

How and when can I fish for squid? What fees apply? You can catch up to ten squid per day up to a maximum of 5 kg (plus one squid) per person or individual license. The use of lights is not permitted. There is only a ban on night fishing in the Llevant de Mallorca Marine Reserve (both inland and outer waters).

Can recreational fishermen shellfish? Generally speaking yes, if they have an individual recreational maritime fishing license or an underwater fishing license. You may catch "puu" bait with traditional fishing gear, up to a maximum of 5 kg per day. Up to 30 sea urchins can be caught per license per day. It is forbidden to catch barnacles, sea snails and other non-cephalopod molluscs. The capture of the blue crab (*Callinectes sapidus*) is currently permitted.

Are recreational fishing licenses from other autonomous communities valid? Yes, provided that you comply with regional provisions governing recreational fishing.

Is it permitted to fish from the beach? Yes, although you must take into account the following:

- Between 1 May and 30 September, you cannot fish on the beach between 7 am and 10 pm.
- Fishermen must fish 100 m away from areas frequented by bathers.
- Municipalities may have regulated fishing on specific beaches by means of a municipal ordinance.

Underwater recreational fishing

How can I obtain authorisation to catch species subject to special protection (Annex II)? Authorisation may only be obtained through the Ministry's PescaREC app.

Is it mandatory to join the official association to obtain an underwater fishing license? It is not mandatory, except if you want to fish with a rifle, in which case you will need to join the association, as established in the Weapons Regulations, approved by Royal Decree 137/1993, of 29 January (BOE no. 55, of 5 March, 1993).

Are underwater fishing licenses from other autonomous communities valid? Yes, as long as you comply with regional provisions on recreational fishing.

Are underwater fishing licenses from other countries valid? No.

Do the fishing licenses for marine reserves apply to all marine reserves? No; you can only fish in the marine reserves in the Bay of Palma and Migjorn de Mallorca, and each reserve requires a specific license.



**Conselleria d'Agricultura,
Pesca i Medi Natural**
Direcció General de Pesca