

# Transforming fisheries in the Balearics

*Marilles Foundation  
in collaboration with  
Low Impact Fishers of Europe*

## Contact:

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- Marilles is a non-profit private foundation working to turn the Balearics into a world-leading example of marine conservation

Geographical scope: Balearics (Mallorca – Menorca – Ibiza – Formentera)

Born in 2017 after two years of preparatory work

Funded by Adessium – MAVA – Fundatur – EU Interreg – private donations

Priority working areas: MPA – Sustainable Fisheries and all the “building blocks” for long term change.

# What do we do?

1

Fund projects to  
improve the  
marine  
environment

2

Convene  
players to find  
solutions  
together

3

Raise funds to  
protect the  
Balearic Sea

We have invested more than 1million Euro in  
projects since we started operating in 2018

## STRATEGY OVERVIEW

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Improving MPAs  
critical habitats and  
species



Sustainable  
fisheries

Connecting people  
with the sea

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Natural Capital Accounts

State of the Balearic Sea  
report

Marine Citizens Science

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Strengthening Civil Society

Raising funds for marine  
conservation

Engaging key sectors  
(boating, tourism, etc)

Impact of **professional fishing** on marine environment is significantly reduced

- Stable number of fishermen make a decent living
- Fishing fleet is committed to action plans for sustainable fisheries management plans
- Trawlers do not fish in marine vulnerable areas and comply with the law
- Artisanal fishermen comply with the law
- Effective control and enforcement mechanisms are well established
- Balearic fish and sea products are highly valued and receive recognition due to the island's commitment to sustainability.

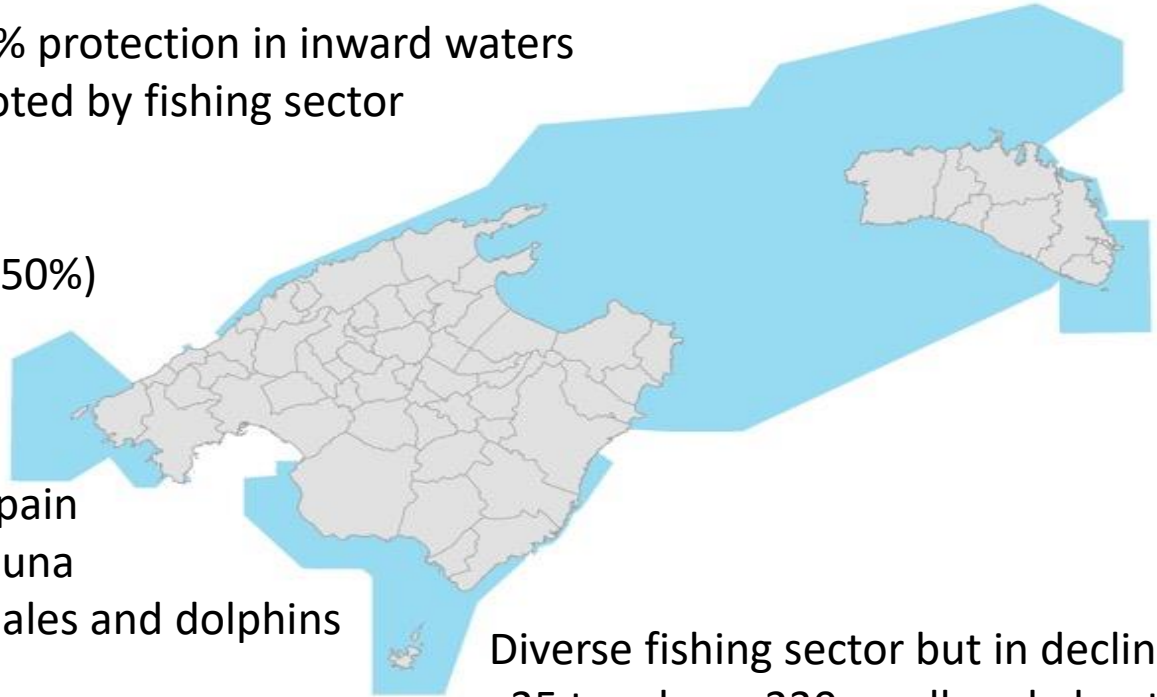
Impact of **recreational fishing** on marine environment is significantly reduced

- Rec fishing continues to be part of Balearic identity, but it is better regulated and there is more awareness and enforcement.
- Illegal sales from recreational fishermen to restaurants have ceased.
- Amount and quality of data and information available has improved
- Recreational fishermen are actively engaged in marine conservation (i.e. data collection)
- Poaching is eliminated and considered socially embarrassing
- Effective control and enforcement are in place. Public inspectors intensify their monitoring of both boats and restaurants.

20% under legal protection 40% protection in inward waters  
Several marine reserves promoted by fishing sector  
Only 45km<sup>2</sup> NTZ (0.16%)

Tourism dependent economy (50%)

400 different species of fish  
50% of seagrass meadows in Spain  
Breeding grounds for blue fin tuna  
Resident population sperm whales and dolphins



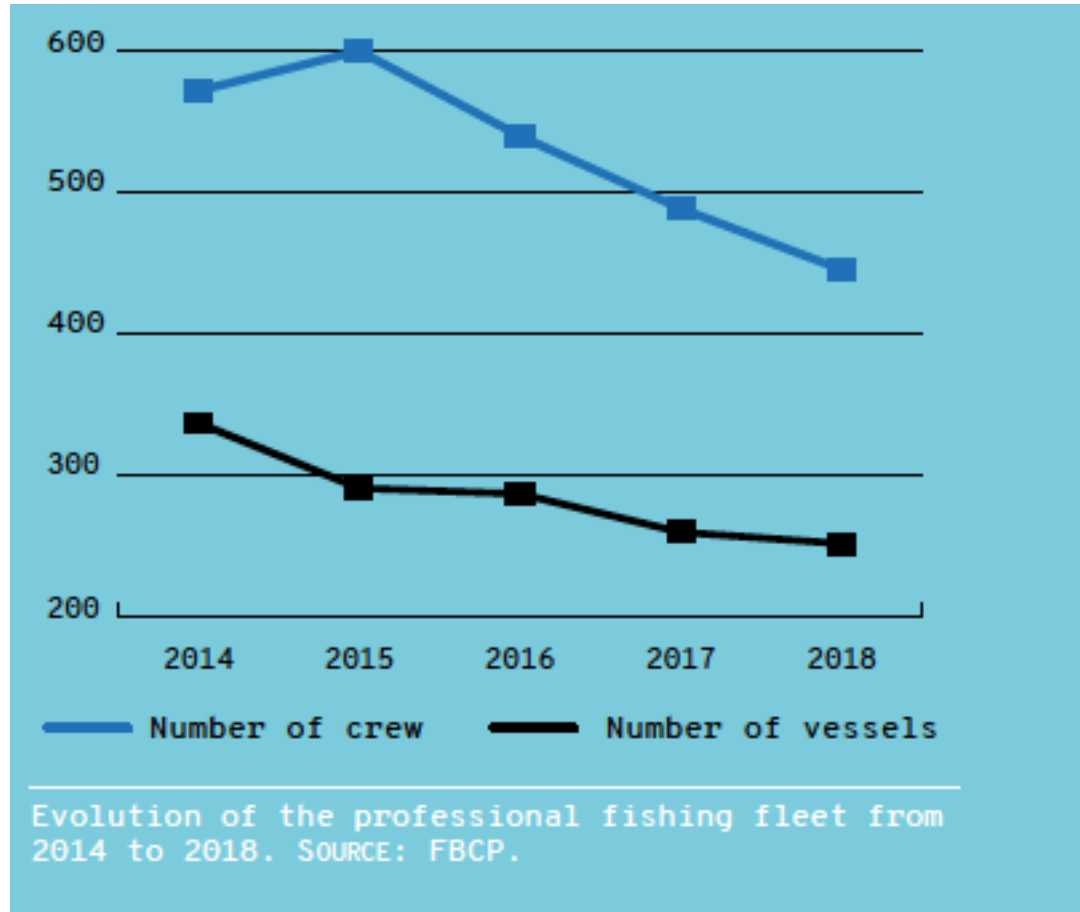
Diverse fishing sector but in decline  
35 trawlers - 230 small-scale boats

Catch value 20mill Euro/yr  
60,000 recreational fishermen license  
23,000 moorings - huge boat density

## Fishing fleet trends (source: [www.informemarbalear.org](http://www.informemarbalear.org))

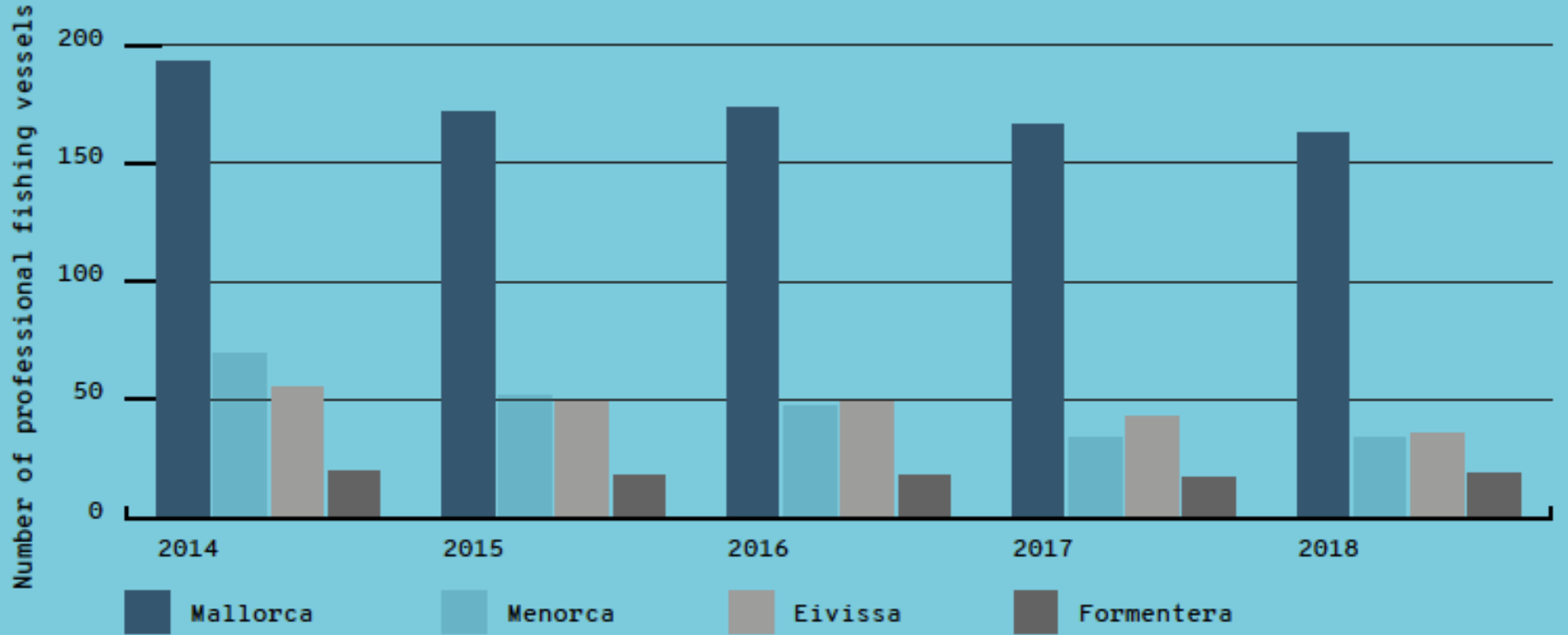
- Fishing fleet in decline but might stabilise
- Reasons for decline are more in land (socio-economic factors) than at sea.

Official catch: 3000 Tm/year  
Circa: 20million Euro/year

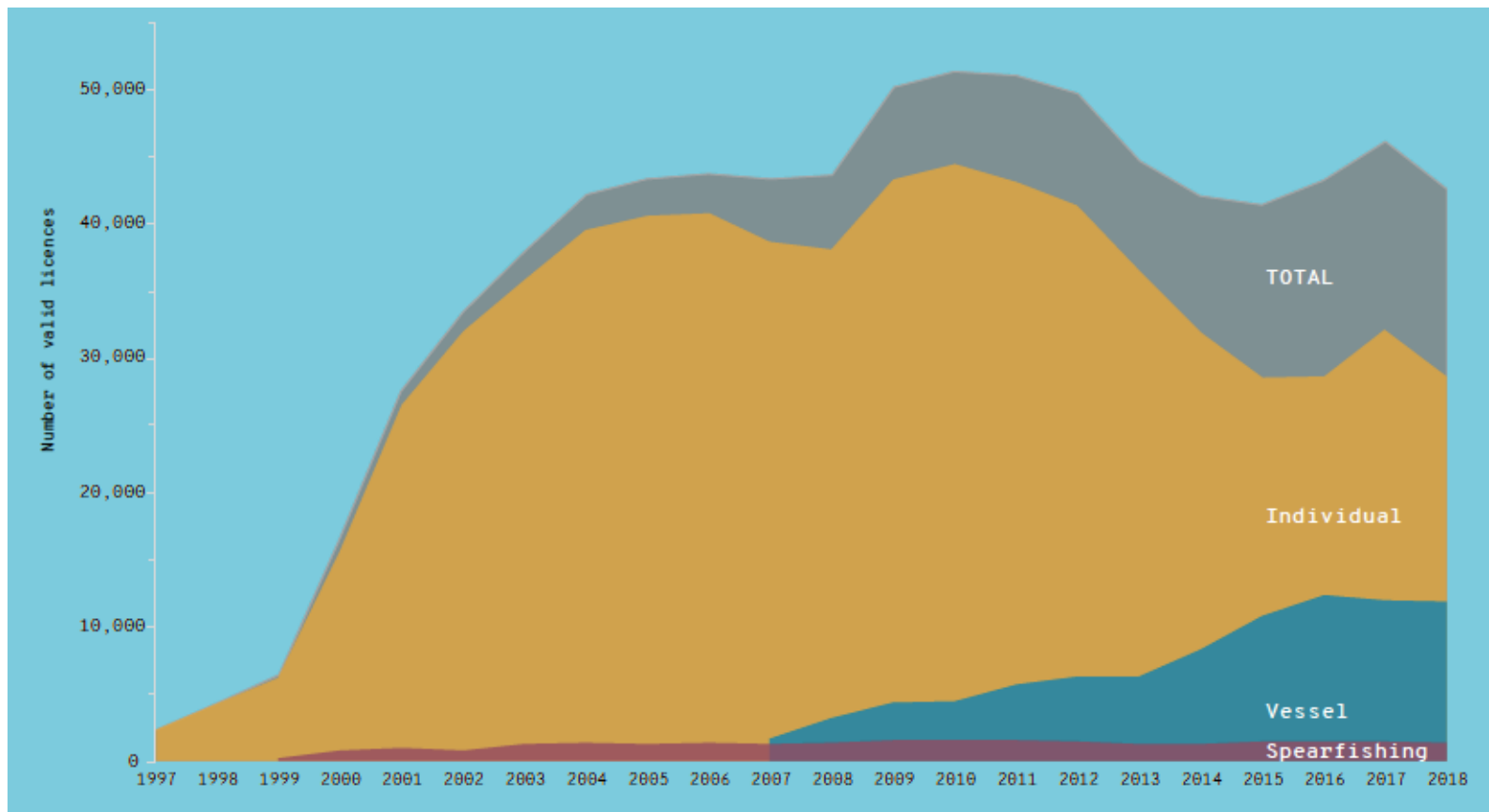




## Evolution of fishing fleet (source: [www.informemarbalear.org](http://www.informemarbalear.org))

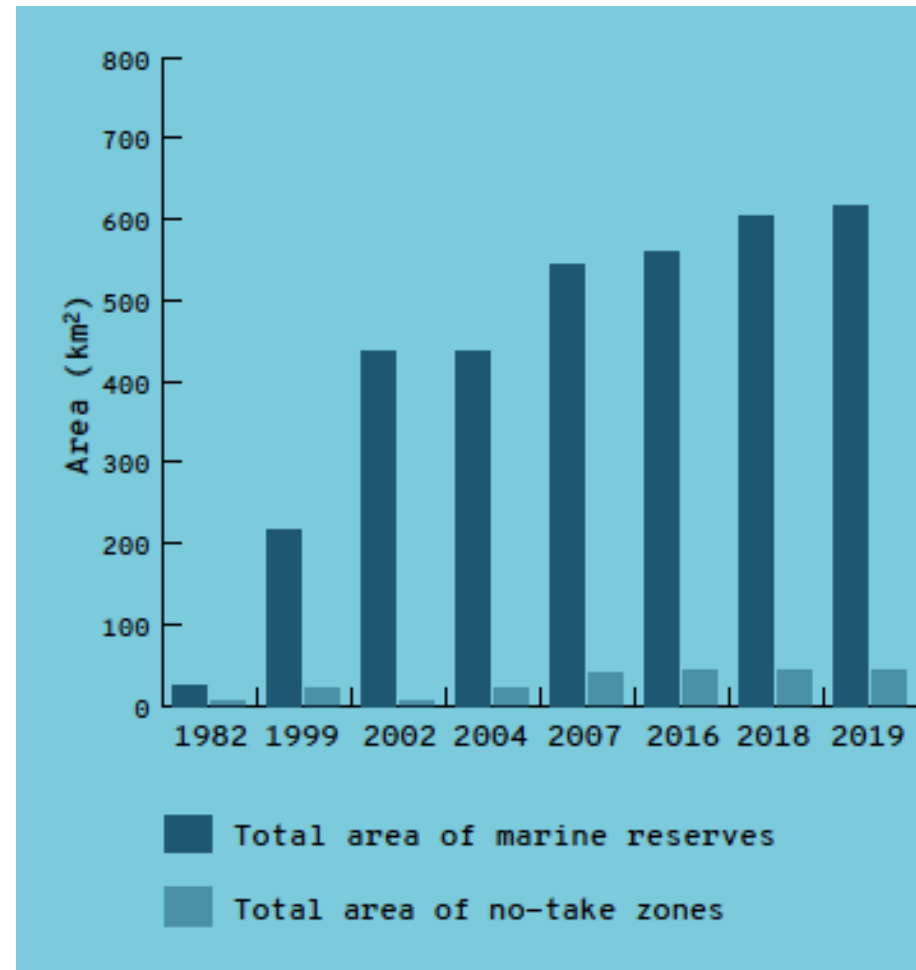


## Recreational fishing licenses (source: [www.informemarbalear.org](http://www.informemarbalear.org))



- Fisheries Marine Reserves on the rise
- No-take-zone is very limited
- Funding has remained stable while area increases → funding per KM2 goes down.

(source: [www.informemarbalear.org](http://www.informemarbalear.org))



Sustainable Fisheries  
accelerating change

## Current context

There is lots of work going on already

- FLAGs in Ibiza & Menorca
- Fishermen Cofradias who have spear-headed the declaration of Marine Reserves
- 11 fisheries marine reserves which have delivered higher biomass of commercially interest species – but with massive potential for improvement.
- Locally-caught labels (Peix Nostrum in Ibiza – Millorqui in Mallorca) which certify that fish is local and top quality.
- Legal framework and very specific regulations for professional / recreational fishermen

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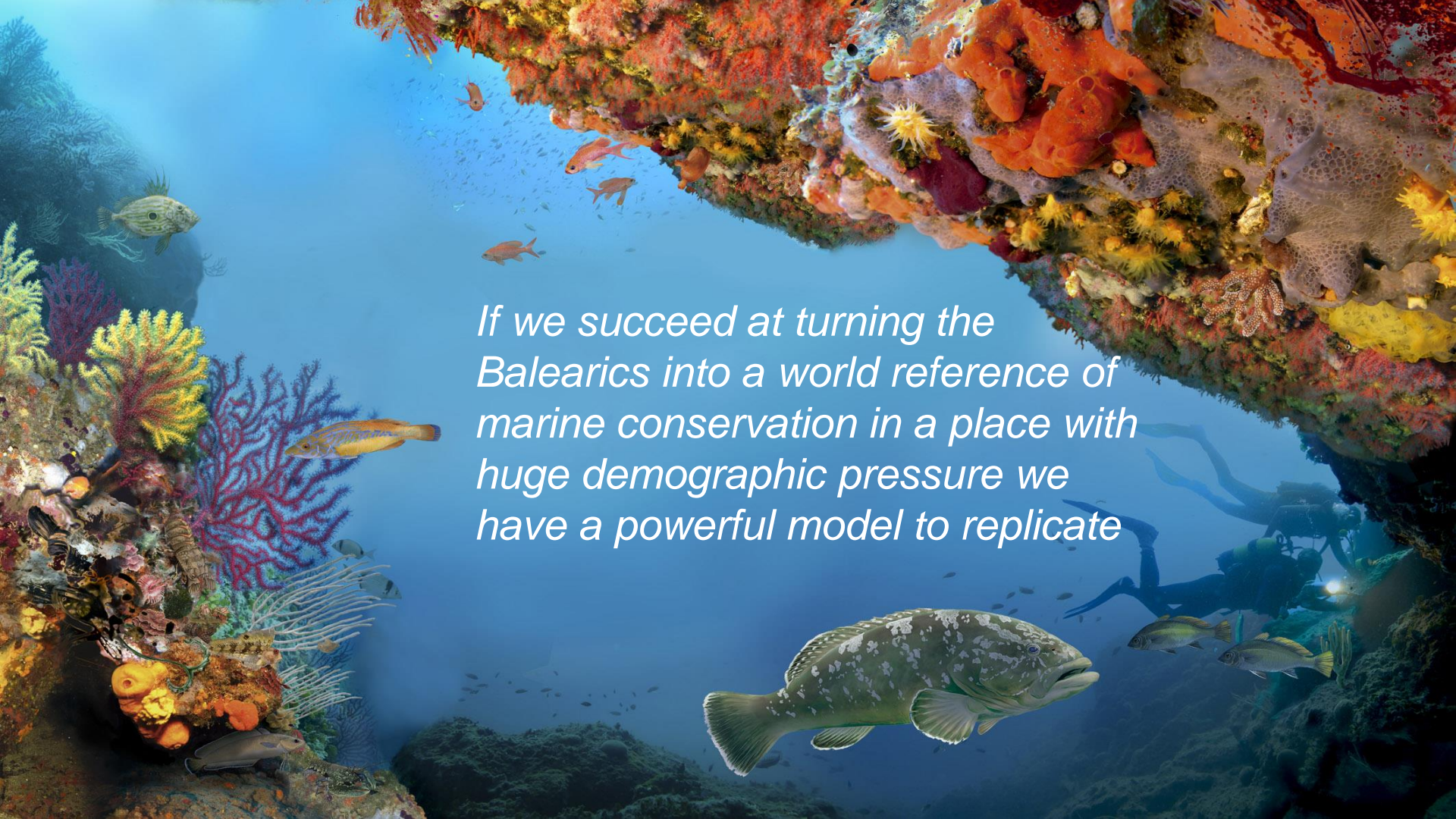
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**OUR AIM IS TO ADD VALUE  
FILL GAPS  
AVOID DOUBLE-EFFORTS**

## Areas for intervention

- Management plans
  - Co-management for key species
  - Distribution of days per area & species
- Low-impact fishing gear and practice
  - Trawlers with lower-impact gates (T90?)
  - Lobster tremmel nets from max of 48h to 24/12h?
  - .....
- Incorporating a sustainability element to current labels
  - Peix Nostrum / Millorquí
- Ending ilegal fishing (professional and recreational) and sales
- .....



*If we succeed at turning the Balearics into a world reference of marine conservation in a place with huge demographic pressure we have a powerful model to replicate*





## IF YOU WANT TO LEARN MORE

[www.marilles.org](http://www.marilles.org)

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