

### **Competition Rules 2021**

## Summary

2020 MARE Competition - Open Call: 15 July to 15 September

Each participant can submit up to 15 digital photographs related to the Balearic Sea that showcase its richness and beauty, as well as those showing our relationship with it, whether they report on negative or positive actions.

In all cases, **photographs** must be **taken within the Balearic Sea** during the years 2020 and 2021.

For the Adult participants (> 18 years old), a distinction is made between amateur (original JPG essential) and expert (RAW essential). Each participant may submit up to 15 photographs distributed into 5 categories: 1. MARE Animalia; 2. MARE Plantae; 3. MARE Magna; 4. MARE Nostrum; 5. MARE Denounces.

For the **Young participants**, a distinction will be made between children (< 14 years) and young adult (14-17 years).

Registration is free for young people, members of the Associació de Fotògrafs i Filmadors de Natura de les Illes Balears (AFONIB), the Federación Balear de Actividades Subacuáticas (FBDAS) and associated diving centres. For the rest of participants, the registration fee is 10 euros.

All entries must be accompanied by a clear conservation message.

The jury will select the best projects and award the prizes.

A total of €10,000 will be distributed into 23 prizes - cash prizes for the Adult participants and underwater equipment for the Young participants.

The best projects submitted will be included in the **travelling exhibition** that will tour the Balearic Islands in 2022.

There is also the option of submitting videos and/or documentaries following the Menorca Doc Fest rules.

# General information of interest

MARE's mission is to create a platform for the best photographs of the Balearic Islands' underwater world and coastline and present them to the public, accompanied by conservationist messages, in order to raise awareness of the richness and beauty of the Balearic Sea.

The Competition organisers will contact you from the following e-mail address: info@marebalear.org. Please add it to your address book to avoid communications being blocked by security or anti-spam systems.

We encourage you to take part and support the conservation of the Balearic Sea!

### **MARE 2021**

FORMATS	CATEGORIES	YOUNG PARTICIPANTS		ADULT PARTICIPANTS	
		CHILDREN <14 years (JPG)	YOUNG ADULTS 14-17 years (JPG)	AMATEUR > 18 years old (JPG)	EXPERT > 18 years old (RAW)
PHOTOGRAPHY	MARE Animalia MARE Plantae MARE Magna MARE Nostrum MARE Denounces Honourable Mention: Marine Protected Areas Honourable Mention: Conservation Message Honourable Mention: Empathy	Free of charge Maximum of 15 photographs	Free of charge Maximum of 15 photographs	Maximum of 15 <sub>1</sub> in the 5 categor € 10 general reg Free for: - AFONIB mei - Members of - Partner dive	ies gistration mbers FBDAS
DOCUMENTARY AWARD: "A Mediterranean Story"				As descr MenorcaDocFe	

**MARE** supports Balearic marine conservation through photography and video.

**MARE** showcases the splendour and richness hidden in the Balearic Sea to promote a responsible relationship with our marine environment: thus, the ability to reflect the state of our sea, messages for a call to action, beauty and empathy all form part of the interconnected values of the competition.



## 1. Who can participate?

There are no age restrictions. Anyone from any background is welcome to take part in the Competition, whether they are expert or amateur underwater/coastal photographers. However, members of the Organisation, members of the Advisory Committee, collaborators, sponsors of the Competition or members of the Jury and their families are not allowed to participate.

In view of the above, we have established the following Competition Participation Categories, which can be selected when completing the registration form:

#### YOUNG PARTICIPANTS (<18 years old):

We have established two profiles for young people: Children (<14 years old) and Young Adults (between 14 and 17 years old).

- 1. CHILDREN: young people under 14 years old, FREE PARTICIPATION.
- 2. YOUNG ADULT: young people between 14 and 17 years old, FREE PARTICIPATION.

Children under the age of 18 must have the relevant authorisation from one of their guardians and must not have reached the age of 18 by the closing date of the call for applications.

Those who turn 18 before 15 September 2021 will be automatically recognised by the system as belonging to the ADULT CATEGORY.

#### ADULT PARTICIPANTS (> 18 years old):

There are two profiles for adults: amateur and expert. The differences lie in the prizes and the requirements for submitting the original file. Each participant must choose which profile to enter, according to his or her photographic experience. One cannot enter both profiles.

- 3. **AMATEUR**: in case the photograph is selected as finalist, the original JPG file will be required.
- 4. **EXPERT**: in case the photograph is selected as finalist, the RAW file will be required.

Adult members of AFONIB or federated with FBDAS: FREE PARTICIPATION. Adults registered through partner dive centres\*: FREE PARTICIPATION.

Partner dive centres:

- Mallorca: Albatros Diving Center, Tramuntana Diving & Adventure, Skualo and Mar Balear.
- Ibiza: Scuba Diving Ibiza.
- Formentera: Vellmarí.
- Menorca: Binibeca Diving, Diving Menorca and S'Algar Diving Menorca.

Adults in general: REGISTRATION, € 10.

### 2. Visual arts disciplines

The 2021 competition will consider digital visual arts in two formats: **digital photography and documentary.** 



The following rules refer to the digital photography format. MARE has joined forces with Menorca Doc Fest and established a collaboration agreement to promote the DOCUMENTARY AWARD ON MARINE ENVIRONMENT. The rules can be found at www.menorcadocfest.com.

## 3. Categories

The Balearic Sea is the protagonist. All photographs submitted (a maximum of 15 per participant) must be related to the marine or coastal environment of the Balearic Islands, and be accompanied by a conservation message or statement.

Participants are encouraged to submit underwater photographs (100 % of the photograph taken underwater) in all categories. However, photographs taken out of the water, 50% in the water or completely underwater may be submitted in all categories.

Each image may only be submitted in one category.

- 1. MARE Animalia. Marine animals at any stage of their life. Images that highlight the personality of an individual or a group, which showcase the great biodiversity that exists in the Balearic Sea. Special attention will be paid to photographs that focus on new discoveries or species of high conservation interest (rarely seen, unique, endangered, etc.). #biodiversity #mammals #fish #syngnathidae #turtles #reptiles #seabirds #sharks #rayfish #cetaceans #cephalopods #crustaceans #shellfish #corals #jellyfish #starfish
- 2. **MARE Plantae.** Images showing "marine gardens" at any stage of their life: any type of seaweed, plant or seagrass in general. Photographs portraying the importance of plant species in their environment, showing the richness of colours beneath the sea and on the coast. #plants #Phanerogamae #PosidoniaOceanica #CymodoceaNodosa #ZosteraNoltii #seaweed #CaulerpaProlifera
- 3. MARE Magna. Images of the multiple views of the sea and its landscapes. The sea seen from within or from the surface, with a message about the vital importance of the marine environment for the services it provides to humans, and the planet and the urgent need to protect it. For example: the Balearic Sea and its habitats as reservoirs of extraordinary abundance; oceans as drivers of climate and weather, unusual perspectives of the sea, etc. #marine landscapes #marinehabitats #marinefund #coralreef #seagrassmeadows #seaforests #gorgonianforests #sandybottoms #rockybottoms #Maerl #TransparentWaters #TheBigBlue #OpenSea #TheSeaFromAfar #coastalhabitats #salinas #albufera #cliffs #beaches #sand #rocks #storms #weather
- 4. MARE Nostrum: How do you feel about the sea, how do you relate to it, what does it give you? When you think of the ocean, what do you see? This category invites you to show our social, economic and cultural relationship with the sea in a more artistic way, as well as how we interact with it in our daily lives. For example: the sea as a space for entertainment, a place interconnected with our culture, the perfect place to relax, practice sports or live new adventures. #fishing #tourism #sailing #seatransport #renewableenergy #relax #diving #sports #adventure #explore #CitizenResponsibility #SurveillanceShips #SeaAmbassadors #EnvironmentalEducation #ReintroductionOfSpecies #ReleasingIntoTheSea



5. **MARE Denounces**. Images showing the human impact generated on the sea due to our relationship with it; threats and dangers. For example: loss of biodiversity, global warming, pollution, overfishing, polluted waters, invasive species, etc. #invasivespecies #pollution #plastic #underwaternoise #climatechange #overfishing

Please indicate in the "tags" field if your photograph has been taken in a marine protected area (MPA), so it can also be eligible for the Balearic Sea Marine Protected Areas Honourable Mention awards: #AMP #Cabrera #SerraTramuntana #BahíadePalma #MigjorndeMallorca #IsladelToro #IslasMalgrats #LlevantdeMallorca #SaDragonera #AlbuferaDesGrau #NortedeMenorca #IlllaDeLAire #ReservaBiosferaMenorca #SesSalinesIbizayFormentera #EsTrenc-SalobrardeCampos #EsVedràEsVedranellelllotsdePonent #FreusdelbizayFormentera #SaPuntaDeSaCreu #NortheastlbizaTagomago

## 4. Registration and participation

Participation is exclusively online and only photographs in digital format are accepted for submission via the Competition website.

Each participant may submit, in a single entry, a maximum of 15 images that can be freely distributed among the different categories.

Think, create and prepare your selection of photographs.

- ✓ Please note our code of ethics for conservation photography, which can be found here: www.marebalear.etic.org.
- ✓ Register via the following link: www.marebalear.certamen.org.
- Fill in all the information requested on the form. Remember that there is a special section in each photograph for writing your conservation message.
- ✓ We recommend you to certify your photographs (prior to submitting them) via IRCC (www.ircc.photo).
- ✓ If you have technical problems or questions about the Competition, please write to us at <a href="mailto:info@marebalear.org">info@marebalear.org</a>.
- ✓ You may modify the uploaded images at any time time before sending in your submission.
- ✓ The deadline for the Competition is 15 September 2021 at 11.59 pm.

## 5. Prepare your images

#### **TECHNICAL REQUIREMENTS**

- We will only accept photos captured by digital cameras in which the RAW file is preserved (in the EXPERT profile), or the original JPG (in the AMATEUR and YOUNG profiles).
- The technical shooting parameters will be automatically extracted from the data embedded in the image file, so they do not need to be detailed and must be present in every JPG photograph submitted (do not remove EXIF/ shooting parameters from the photograph before submission).



- Participating images are expected to represent reality and therefore only moderate processing settings on photographs will be admitted. Moderate settings are those that do not distort the reality of the image, but simply correct hue, light and saturation.
- Black and white photographs are accepted in all categories.
- Photographs composed by multiple camera exposures are allowed, provided they were taken on the same date (we can detect this by checking the image metadata labels). For certain camera models, the individual files that make up the multiple exposure image may be required (see information available at IROC).
- The use of settings affecting sensor dust spot correction, lens distortion correction and optical aberrations is permitted.

#### MARE WITH THE IRCC PHOTOGRAPHIC ASSOCIATION

- MARE collaborates with the IRCC Photographic Association, which aims to guarantee the credibility of the context of nature photography through the supervision and certification of photographs, by means of specialised software.
- Participants will have the option to enter the competition by submitting images that have been previously certified by IRCC or otherwise.
- The authenticity of all images entering the final phase of the competition will be verified by checking the original RAW/JPG file of the photograph.
- The verification, revision and accreditation of the authenticity of the finalist photographs will be carried out by IRCC ASOCIACIÓN FOTOGRÁFICA through the IRCC platform (www.ircc.photo), comparing the edited JPG photograph with its original RAW/JPG file, and carrying out a complete diagnosis of the editing/developing actions on the original, measured both globally and by areas, as well as determining the extent to which they have been retouched or manipulated, where/if applicable.
- The jury will decide which photographs can be considered as NOT APT, based on their criteria as professionals and on the non-binding consultation of the report issued by IRCC. The reasons why photographs may be deemed NOT APPROPRIATE, following the analysis and verification process, are summarised below:
  - o Unacceptable alteration of the original photograph, such as distortion of dimensions or transformation of perspective
  - o Excessive global processing or zonal processing values
  - O Detection of alteration or modification of pixels in specific areas of the image (deletions, cloning or manipulation)
  - o RAW output options not permitted, such as overlay or non-sequential multiple exposure
- Although it is not compulsory, we recommend you certify the photographs prior submission through IRCC (https://www.ircc.photo/); this means that your photograph will be automatically accepted as eligible for evaluation by the jury.
- Anyone participating with IRCC certificates must submit all certified images and will not be required to submit any **original** images during the course of the competition.
- Under the agreement signed by MARE with IRCC, all participants can obtain free credits
  or certifying their photographs. Access all the information published on www.ircc.photo
  and request your free credits at <u>info@ircc.photo</u>.



#### PRESENTATION OF YOUR PHOTOGRAPHS

- Participation is exclusively via the Competition website. Only photographs taken with digital cameras in which the RAW files (in the ADULTS categories) and the original JPG files (in the YOUNG ADULTS categories) are preserved will be accepted.
- Photographs must be submitted in JPG format and contain their metadata or shooting parameters with dimensions of a maximum of 1920 pixels of resolution on the longest side of the image and a maximum size of 4 MB.
- Photos should not have frames, borders, watermarks or captions.
- The Organisation will request the original RAW/JPG file of all photographs that reach the final phase of the Competition, except for those entered with IRCC certification. If deemed appropriate, the RAW file may be requested at any other previous phase of the Competition. Failure to submit the RAW file will result in the disqualification of the photograph.
- In terms of cropping, the high quality version of the developed JPG must have at least 10 MP (megapixels) without interpolation. Therefore, a high resolution file must be available for printing on paper if required by the Organisation.

#### **CAPTION/MESSAGE**

Each image must be accompanied by a text with the following information:

- **Title.** The title of the photograph should be in accordance with the message you want to convey.
- **Description of the marine conservation value.** To explain your image, we invite you to think scientifically and poetically. All photographs must be accompanied by a caption describing the main conservation value of the image (key species in the food chain, deteriorating landscape, success stories of adaptation of a species, etc.). All types of text can be submitted: descriptive, reflective, philosophical or even poetic, always with a maximum length of 1,500 characters (approximately 100 words) and a minimum of 200 characters (approximately 50 words).
- The shooting parameters are automatically extracted from the EXIF data of the JPG file presented, and details of the technique or equipment used can be expanded in this section.
- Choose the tags that best represent your image. Indicate if you have taken your photograph within a marine protected area (using the MPA tag) to qualify for the Marine Protected Areas Honourable Mention.

Images that do not meet the established format requirements will be rejected. If the author's intention to deceive the public in a malicious way becomes evident, the Organisation reserves the right to disqualify that participant from the Competition.

### 6. General rules

- ✓ The photographs submitted must represent reality as much as possible.
- ✓ The Competition rewards originality and quality along with the marine conservation value that the photograph represents.



- ✓ Photographs of domestic or aquarium animals and cultivated marine plants are not permitted.
- ✓ It is mandatory to indicate if the animal portrayed is in captivity, if it has been trained or if any actions were taken to induce its behaviour at the time of taking the picture.
- ✓ Location: photographs are to be taken within the 1,000 m Balearic Sea area around the Balearic archipelago.
- ✓ Date: only images taken in the last two years, between 1 January 2020 and 15 September 2021, will be accepted.
- ✓ It is not permitted to submit the same or very similar photographs in more than one category.
- ✓ We will accept pictures that have received awards in other competitions or have been published previously.
- ✓ MARE's code of ethics concerning imaging is based on the IRCC Ethical Manifesto and the AFONIB Decalogue. Participants are encouraged to read these and apply their philosophy.

### 7. Awards and honourable mentions

Twenty-tree prizes valued at more than €10,000 will be presented to the authors of the best images, selected by the Jury and distributed as follows:

FORMAT	AWARDS	YOUNG PARTICIPANTS		ADULT PARTICIPANTS	
		CHILDREN	YOUNG ADULTS	AMATEUR	EXPERT
		< 14 years old	14-17 years	> 18 years old	> 18 years
		(JPG)	(JPG)	(JPG)	(RAW)
PHOTOGRAPHY	MARE Animalia	Image POOL.  1st. aquatio expedition kit 2nd. aquatio expedition kit 3rd. aquatio expedition kit	Image POOL 1 <sup>st</sup> : camera 2 <sup>nd</sup> : camera. 3 <sup>rd</sup> camera.	€250	€1,000
	MARE Plantae			€250	€1,000
	MARE Magna			€250	€1,000
	MARE Nostrum			€250	€1,000
	MARE Denounces			€250	€1,000
	Honourable			€150	€500
	Mention: Marine				
	Protected Areas				
	Honourable			€150	€500
	Mention:				
	Conservation				
	Message				
	Honourable			€150	€500
	Mention: Empathy				
DOCUMENTARY PRIZE:				€1,000	
"A story about the Mediterranean"					

Prizes for the **ADULT EXPERT**: 5 winners (per category) and 3 honourable mentions. There will also be 3 finalists in each section, who will each receive a Diploma.

CATEGORY winners with a prize for the best photographic quality (5 prizes of €1,000):

- 1. MARE Animalia:1 prize of €1,000
- 2. MARE Plantae: 1 prize of €1,000
- 3. MARE Magna: 1 prize of €1,000
- 4. MARE Nostrum:1 prize of €1,000
- 5. MARE Denounces: 1 prize of €1,000

HONOURABLE MENTION winners (3 prizes of € 500):



- 6. Honourable Mention for the best conservation message: 1 prize of € 500
- 7. Honourable Mention for empathy: 1 prize of € 500
- 8. Honourable Mention Marine Protected Areas:1 prize of € 500

Prizes for the **ADULT AMATEUR**: 5 winners (per category) and 3 honourable mentions. There will also be 3 finalists in each section, who will each receive a Diploma.

OATEGORY winners with a prize for the best photographic quality (5 prizes of € 250):

- 1. MARE Animalia: 1 prize of € 250
- 2. MARE Plantae: 1 prize of € 250
- 3. MARE Magna: 1 prize of € 250
- 4. MARE Nostrum:1 prize of € 250
- 5. MARE Denounces: 1 prize of € 250

HONOURABLE MENTION winners (3 prizes of € 150):

- 6. Honourable Mention for best conservation message: 1 prize of €150
- 7. Honourable Mention for empathy: 1 prize of € 150
- 8. Honourable Mention Marine Protected Areas: 1 prize of €150

**HONOURABLE MENTIONS** are awarded to images for the story and message they convey (positive conservation messages; portraits of the Balearic Sea; ability to empathise with the sea). Of course, quality and aesthetics are important, but here we are looking for images that are really able to connect with the public, even if the photographic quality is not excellent. The winning images of MARE categories cannot be awarded HONOURABLE MENTIONS.

- 1. **Honourable Mention for best conservation message.** Awarded to the photograph that most powerfully communicates a story of hope, Balearic Sea recovery and conservation action. It can be an abstract photograph, an image of a particular species, a wider ecosystem or something depicting the human effort to find solutions to the problems we face.
- Honourable Mention for empathy. This is awarded to the photograph that has the ability to connect with the viewer, tell a story with immediacy and empathise with the public: the image that best represents empathy and connection with the Balearic Sea.
- 3. **Honourable Mention Marine Protected Areas**. Awarded to the photograph that best displays the beauty and natural treasures hidden in the MPAs\* of the Balearic Islands; the countless benefits they offer (for the fishing industry and the conservation of biodiversity/habitats and species of high ecological value, two interdependent aims); and the activities, events and actions that take place there. The photograph must include the MPA\* label and the location of the marine protected area where it was taken.

\*Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) are sections of the marine environment, whether or not connected to the coast, that are awarded some form of protection. They are globally used as tools for the regeneration of marine ecosystems, with the dual objective of increasing the productivity of fishery resources and conserving marine habitats and species.

MARE will collaborate with different organisations to promote and revitalise the involvement of citizens living close to marine protected areas (MPAs).



The <u>Xarxa Dragonera Blava</u> - a network promoted by the Save The Med organisation and sponsored by the Marilles Foundation -will take part in the MARE 2021 Competition by promoting Sa Dragonera MPAs offering a collaborative framework for participants.

All photographs with the #SaDragonera hashtag, prior consent of their author, will become part of the Xarxa Dragonera Blava archives. These images may be used to raise awareness of the richness of the Sa Dragonera Marine Reserve through various media and formats of public communication and display, such as exhibitions, talks, educational workshops and all the social media channels of the Xarxa Dragonera Blava.

The Xarxa Dragonera Blava will thank the participants of this section with a small gift for anyone who allows the use of their images, and will select at least one photograph of each section to be a part of any exhibitions that emerge from this collaborative initiative.

Prizes for the **YOUNG ADULTS** (between 14 and 17 years old): 3 winners, who will each receive a camera valued at more than € 400.

Prizes for the **CHILDREN** (< 14 years old): 3 winners, who will each receive an aquatic expedition kit.

## 8. Visibility of awards and honourable mentions

All award winners, honourable mentions and finalists will be part of:

- The online exhibition on our MARE website. We will create an appropriate visual resource to that end (digital publication or similar resource).
- ✓ The Balearic Islands' travelling exhibition during 2022.

### 9. Jury

The Jury will be made up of relevant people from the world of marine photography with experience to select the works that deserve special recognition and will be announced in due course.

The Jury's decision on all matters is final (even if its decision disregards one of the above rules), so no claims or appeals against it will be accepted.

The Jury reserves the right to transfer entries from one category to another if it considers this applicable or appropriate. If necessary, members of the Jury may be replaced.



### Calendar

Closing date: 15 September 2021 at 23:59

Receipt of original files (RAW/JPG): October 2021

Announcement of finalists: October/November 2021

<u>Award ceremony</u>: It is yet to be confirmed whether the ceremony will be in person or virtual, depending on the evolution of the health crisis caused by COVID-19. The event can be followed on the website and social media.

Exhibition of the winning and runner-up photographs: Photographs by winners and finalists will form part of a travelling exhibition that will tour the four Balearic Islands during 2022.

## 10. Legal issues

#### **IMAGE RIGHTS**

The participants declare that they are the authors of each work presented to the Competition and that they own all the rights.

Photographs showing a recognisable or identifiable person must have their express consent, and permission for the assignment of image rights must be attached. MARE will not be held responsible for any possible claims against the authors, which may result in the disqualification of a photograph.

The author of the photographs will keep the copyright of all his/her images.

Photographers will transfer or loan their reproduction rights to the Competition Organisation for the following purposes:

- 1. **Loan for MARE**: the use of the image is granted solely for the MARE competition.
- 2. **Loan for the conservation of the Balearic Sea**: the use of the image is loaned to be shared for marine conservation purposes with MARE's collaborating entities. Under no circumstances will these images be used for profit.
- 3. **Transfer to a database for sale:** transfer of the image to form part of a database to be shared with entities or companies that may be interested in buying them directly from the authors. MARE cannot guarantee any sales but offers to connect interested buyers with the authors.



#### LOAN OF USE FOR MARE EXHIBITION AND PUBLICATIONS

MARE reserves the right to reproduce the best images with the sole purpose of **sharing the** results of the Competition, promoting MARE and carrying out training and educational projects organised by the entity (talks on underwater photography, events promoting conservation photography, etc.).

All photographs must always be accompanied by the photographer credit (Maria Borrell/MARE 2021, etc.). Photographers will loan their reproduction rights to the Competition Organisation for this purpose. Under no circumstances may these be used for profit.

We hope that our sponsors and a good number of publications will share the results of this Competition and benefit the photographers with high profile exposure. The following exhibitions (not excluding others) will be held by MARE:

- The winning and finalist photographs will be displayed in a travelling exhibition in Mallorca, Menorca, Ibiza and Formentera during 2022
- The Organisation will produce a high quality online publication with all the selected images

#### RESPONSIBILITIES AND DATA PROTECTION

By submitting images to the 2021 MARE edition of this Competition, you accept all sections in these rules. The Organisation will resolve any unforeseen situation not mentioned here.

We will never share your e-mail address with anyone outside the Organisation. All personal data of participants will be treated with the maximum confidentiality by the Organisation, in accordance with Spanish Organic Law 3/2018, 5 December, regarding Protection of Personal Data and Guarantee of Digital Rights (LOPD-GDD).

Participants may contact the Organisation at any time to update their data and/or preferences regarding the authorised use of their personal data.

We will only contact you regarding MARE and any of its associated entities and for no other reason.

Participation in this Competition implies full acceptance of each and every one of these rules and the indisputable decision of the Jury. The Organisation has the authority to resolve any unforeseen case not included in these rules.

All participants in the Competition accept these rules and the legal terms published in the registration form.