

# MARE

20 | Audiovisual Competition  
for the Conservation  
of the Balearic Sea

## Competition Rules

### Summary

2020 MARE Competition - Open Call: **9 July to 31 October**

You can submit 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** (enclosed by the 1,000 m isobath around the Balearic archipelago).

You can also submit videos and photo reports, which will be shown at a later date.

We've established two categories: Young (< 18 years) and Adult (> 18 years).

Registration is free for YOUNG members of AFONIB, FBDAS and those participating through an associate DIVING CENTER. Photographs submitted alongside an IRCC certificate cost €7. All other photographs have a registration cost of €10.

**All proposals must include a short message/caption related to conserving the environment.**

The Jury, made up of experts, will select the most interesting projects and award the prizes.

The prizes for the winning photographs will consist of a monetary award for the Adult category and an underwater photographic camera for the Young category.

The best projects will be selected to form part of a travelling exhibition that will tour the Balearic Islands during 2021.

We will only accept photographs taken in 2019 and 2020.

## 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](mailto: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!

## 1. Who can participate?

**There are no age restrictions. Anyone from any background is welcome to take part in the Competition, whether they are professional 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.

The authenticity of images for the ADULT category, that enter the final phase of the Competition, will be verified by checking the original RAW file of the photograph. The IRCC Photographic Association ([www.ircc.photo](http://www.ircc.photo)) will carry out the RAW analysis. Participants may take part in the Competition by submitting images that have either been previously certified by IRCC, or not. If competing with images certified by IRCC, the RAW file of the selected image will not be requested by the Jury. If the participant submits uncertified photographs, the original RAW file will be requested so it can be evaluated by IRCC (except for the YOUNG category).

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

1. YOUNG PEOPLE UNDER THE AGE OF 18 (with or without IRCC certification): FREE PARTICIPATION
2. ADULT MEMBERS OF AFONIB OR FEDERATED WITH FBDAS (with or without IRCC certification): FREE PARTICIPATION
3. ADULT MEMBERS PARTICIPATING THROUGH A DIVING CENTER (with or without IRCC certification): FREE PARTICIPATION
4. ADULTS, GENERAL (without IRCC certification): REGISTRATION €10
5. ADULTS, GENERAL (with IRCC certification): REGISTRATION €7

Children under 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 Competition.

\*Associated diving centers:

- Mallorca: Albatros Diving Center, Tramuntana Diving & Adventure, Skualo and Mar Balear
- Eivissa: Scuba Diving Ibiza
- Formentera: Vellmarí

- Menorca: Binibeca Diving, Diving Menorca and S'Algar Diving Menorca

## 2. Visual arts disciplines

**Digital photography** is the main format in the 2020 Competition.

The short underwater video/photographic report category is NOT part of the 2020 Competition and, therefore, entries do not qualify for any prize; however, this category is open for broadcasting and promotional purposes. The Jury will evaluate the entries and select the best proposals, which will be included in the online and travelling exhibitions scheduled for 2021, with the aim of promoting the richness and beauty of the Balearic Sea through the visual arts.

Only one video per participant and a maximum of 15 photos for reports will be accepted. Video files must be submitted in MP4 format, have a maximum duration of 120 seconds and be limited to a maximum size of 60 MB for the initial phase of the Competition.

## 3. Subject matter and categories

The Balearic Sea is the protagonist. All photographs submitted (15 max.) 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% underwater photography) in all categories. However, **in categories 1, 4, 5 and 6, photographs taken outside the water, 50 % in the water or completely underwater may be submitted.**

Each image may only be submitted in one category.

1. Marine fauna
2. Underwater plant world
3. Underwater landscape
4. An external view of the sea
5. Our relationship with the Balearic Sea – complaints or success stories
6. Short underwater videos/photographic reports (special category not included in the Competition)

## 4. Registration and participation

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

**You can enter with a single registration for a maximum of 15 images to be distributed among the different categories of your choice.**

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](http://www.marebalear.etic.org).
- ✓ Register through the following link: [www.marebalear.certamen.org](http://www.marebalear.certamen.org)

- ✓ Fill in all the details requested on the form, and remember that there is a special section in each photograph for writing your conservation message!
- ✓ We recommend that you certify your photographs (prior to submitting them) via IRCC (<https://www.ircc.photo/>)
- ✓ If you have technical problems you may contact [info@pixall.es](mailto:info@pixall.es); if you have any queries about the Competition, contact [info@marebalear.org](mailto:info@marebalear.org).
- ✓ You may modify the uploaded images at any time before sending in your submission.
- ✓ The deadline for the Competition is 11:59 p.m. on 31 October 2020.

## 5. Prepare your images

### TECHNICAL REQUIREMENTS

- We will only accept photos captured by digital cameras in which the RAW file is preserved (for the ADULTS category) and the original JPG (for the YOUNG category).
- 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 IRCC).
- Use of settings affecting sensor dust spot correction, lens distortion correction and optical aberrations is permitted.
- **The checking, verification and accreditation of the authenticity of the finalist photographs will be carried out by IRCC ASOCIACIÓN FOTOGRÁFICA** via the IRCC platform ([www.ircc.photo](http://www.ircc.photo)), comparing the edited JPG photograph to its original RAW file and carrying out a complete diagnosis of the edition/development actions on the original, measured both in its entirety and by section.
- **Although it is not mandatory, we recommend submitting the photographs with prior IRCC certification.**
- In order to take part in the Competition with IRCC-certified photographs, you must submit the JPG files with the appropriate resolution (in accordance with IRCC regulations, with a maximum of 1920 pixels on the longest side of the image). You will find all the information regarding requirements for certifying photographs here: [www.ircc.photo](http://www.ircc.photo).
- Based on the report issued by the IRCC, the Competition will disqualify any photograph that may be considered NOT SUITABLE. The reasons a photograph may be considered NOT SUITABLE after the analysis and verification process are summarised below:
  - Non-permitted alterations on the original photograph, such as distortion on dimensions or perspective transformation
  - Over-processing, in its entirety or in certain areas

- Detection of any alteration or modification of pixels in specific areas of the image (deletions, cloning or manipulations)
- Non-permitted RAW options such as overlay or non-sequential multiple exposure

## PRESENTATION OF YOUR PHOTOGRAPHS

- Participation is exclusively via the Competition website. Only photographs taken with digital cameras in which the RAW file (for the ADULTS category) and the original JPG (for the YOUNG category) 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 file of photographs from the ADULT category that reach the final phase of the Competition, except for those entered with IRCC certification. If deemed appropriate, the RAW file may be requested in previous phases of the Competition. Failure to produce them 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.
- Participants competing with IRCC certificates must enter with all images certified; in this case, no original images will be required during the course of the Competition.

## CAPTION/MESSAGE

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

- **Description of the marine conservation value.** 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, even poetic; always with a maximum length of 1,500 characters (approximately 100 words).
- **Image description.** The description should include any observed behaviour, historical background and the exact location in the Balearic Sea (whenever possible and providing it does not cause danger to any marine fauna), and any other points considered important.
- The trigger parameters are automatically extracted from the **EXIF** data of the JPG file presented, and **details of the technique or equipment used** can be found in **this section**.

Images that do not meet the 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 2019 and 31 October 2020, 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 IROC Ethical Manifesto and the AFONIB Decalogue. Participants are encouraged to read these and apply their philosophy.

## 7. Awards and honourable mentions

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:

Prizes for the **ADULT category**: 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. Marine animals and their behaviour (1 prize of €1,000)
2. Underwater plant world (1 prize of €1,000)
3. Underwater landscape (1 prize of €1,000)
4. External view of the sea (1 prize of €1,000)
5. Our relationship with the Balearic Sea – complaints or success stories (1 prize of €1,000)

HONOURABLE MENTION winners (3 prizes of €1,000):

6. **Honourable Mention** for the best conservation message (1 prize of €1,000)
7. **Honourable Mention** for the best portrayal of the state/beauty of the Balearic Sea (1 prize of €1,000)
8. **Honourable Mention** for marine reconnection/empathy (1 prize of €1,000)

We have established 8 prizes for the **YOUNG category**. Each one of them will be awarded an underwater photographic camera valued at more than €400. 3 finalists will also be selected for each award, distributed as follows:

CATEGORY winners with a prize for the best photographic quality (5 photographic cameras):

1. Marine animals and their behaviour (1 photographic camera)
2. Underwater plant world (1 photographic camera)

3. Underwater landscape (1 photographic camera)
4. External view of the sea (1 photographic camera)
5. Our relationship with the Balearic Sea – complaints or success stories (1 photographic camera)

HONOURABLE MENTION winners (3 photographic cameras):

6. **Honourable Mention** for the best conservation message (1 photographic camera)
7. **Honourable Mention** for the best portrait of the state/beauty of the Balearic Sea (1 photographic camera)
8. **Honourable Mention** for marine reconnection/empathy (1 photographic camera)

## 8. Visibility awards and honourable mentions

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

- ✓ The online exhibition on our website. We will create an appropriate visual resource to that end (digital publication or similar resource).
- ✓ The Balearic Islands' travelling exhibition during 2021.

## 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. The members of the Jury will be announced during the months of August and September.

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: 31 October 2020 at 11:59 p.m.

Requesting of RAW files: November 2020

Submission of RAWs: November 2020

Announcement of finalists: First half of November 2020

Award ceremony: It is yet to be confirmed whether the ceremony will be in person or virtual, depending on the evolution of the COVID-19 health crisis. The ceremony will take place sometime between 15 November and 10 December, 2020. The date, format and place of the presentation and award ceremony will be confirmed before 15 November 2020. You will be able to follow this event online and via social networks.

Exhibition of the Photographs of winners and finalists: Photographs by winners and finalists will form part of a travelling exhibition that will tour the four Balearic Islands during 2021.

## 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.

### EXHIBITION AND PUBLICATION

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 2020, 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 2021.
- The Organisation will produce a high quality online publication with all the selected images.

If you want your photographs to be part of the open database dedicated exclusively to the protection and conservation of the Balearic Sea, you must enter the text "OPEN DATA" in the section "Additional Information" of the submission form of each photograph, to transfer all your rights solely for this purpose.

### RESPONSIBILITIES AND DATA PROTECTION

By submitting images to the 2020 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.