



Participation rules 2024

Open call for entries for the MARE 2024 Audiovisual Competition for the Conservation of the Balearic Sea

Deadline for submitting your photographs: **15 September 2024.**

You can submit up to **20 digital photographs related to the Balearic and Mediterranean seas**, which bring to light their richness and beauty or show the relationship between people and the marine environment, be they positive or negative relationships, success stories, or complaints.

In all cases, the photographs must have been taken in the Balearic or Mediterranean seas **since October 2019 and must not have been awarded a prize in any of the previous MARE competitions.**

Those under 16 years of age can participate in the **YOUTH DIVISION** and those aged 16 and over in the **GENERAL DIVISION**. Depending on their experience, those in the GENERAL DIVISION can participate as an **AMATEUR** (original JPG or RAW essential) or an **EXPERT** (RAW essential).

If you are participating in the **YOUTH DIVISION**, you can submit your photographs to a single, generic, juried category. You are also eligible to submit to MARE Popularis.

If you are participating in the **GENERAL DIVISION**, you can submit your photographs across any or all of the five juried categories: 1. MARE Animalia; 2. MARE Botanica; 3. MARE Sapiens; 4. MARE Denuntiare; 5. MARE Nostrum. You are also eligible to submit to MARE Popularis.

In the **MARE Popularis (People's Choice)** category, open to all participants, the winner will be chosen by popular decision through your votes on our website.

All photographs must be submitted in JPG format, with 1920 pixels on the largest side and less than 4 MB in size, without watermarks, borders, or captions.

Each photograph you submit must be accompanied by a short text stating why you are submitting the photograph, where it was taken, its title, the approximate date, and a short conservation message.

Except for MARE Popularis, the jury will select the most interesting photographs in each category and award the prizes.

A total of **€10,000 will be distributed over 24 prizes** in the form of cash and Aquatic Expedition Kits. **Six honourable mentions will be awarded:** three for «marine protected areas» and three for «water quality».

The selected photographs will be included on our website and may form part of a travelling exhibition that will tour the Balearic Islands in 2025.

Registration for MARE 2024 is **free** for those **under 18 years old**, members of the Associació de Fotografia de Natura de les Illes Balears (**AFONIB**), the Federación Balear de Actividades Subacuáticas (**FBDAS**), and associated diving centres. Otherwise, the registration fee is **€10**, whether you submit one photo or 20.

THANK YOU FOR PARTICIPATING.

Important!

MARE will contact you from the following email 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 and Mediterranean seas.

1. REGISTRATION

1. WHO CAN PARTICIPATE?

Anyone, regardless of age, level, or background, is welcome to participate, except for members of MARE, members of the advisory committee, competition sponsors, members of the jury, and their families.

1.2 WHAT LEVEL SHOULD I JOIN?

When you register, select which participation profile you fit into and which level suits you best. You can only have one participation profile and one level.

PARTICIPATION PROFILE		
YOUTH DIVISION (under 16)	GENERAL DIVISION (16 and over)	
	LEVEL	
	AMATEUR (JPG)	EXPERT (RAW)

YOUTH DIVISION (under 16):

If you are under 16 years of age, you can only participate using this profile. Your participation in the competition will be free of charge.

GENERAL DIVISION (16 years and over):

If you are 16 and over, you have two levels to choose from: AMATEUR or EXPERT. The difference lies in the prize and the requirements for submitting the original file.

Choose which level to enter according to your experience and confidence in your photographs. We recommend looking at the gallery of winning photographs from previous competitions on our website to see what your level is in comparison with the rest of the participants.

1. **AMATEUR:** If your photograph is selected as a finalist, the original JPG will be required. You can also submit the RAW file if you prefer.
2. **EXPERT:** If your photo is selected as a finalist, the RAW file will be required.

If you are under 18 years of age, you must have permission from your parents or guardians. You must not have reached the age of 18 before the closing date for entries, i.e. 15 September 2024.

1.3 HOW DO I PARTICIPATE?

Registration for MARE is exclusively online through the competition's website. We only accept photographs in digital format.

If you are participating in the YOUTH DIVISION, you can submit, through a single entry, a maximum of 20 images, 3 of which can be to the MARE Popularis category.

If you are participating in the GENERAL DIVISION, you can submit, through a single entry, a maximum of 20 images that you can distribute freely among the six categories: 1. MARE Animalia; 2. MARE Botanica; 3. MARE Sapiens; 4. MARE Denuntiare; 5. MARE Nostrum; 6. MARE Popularis (only 3 in the MARE Popularis category).

- ✓ Read the rules carefully before you start.
- ✓ Make a list of the information you need to submit.
- ✓ Create a folder on your computer with all the information before signing up.
- ✓ Sign up through the following link: <https://marebalear.org/en/login>
- ✓ Fill in all the information requested on the form. Remember that there is a special section to write your conservation message for each photograph.
- ✓ Modify the uploaded images at any time.
- ✓ Submit your entry.

The deadline to enter the competition is 15 September 2024 at 11.59 pm CEST.

If you have technical problems or questions about the competition, check the FAQ. If you still have questions, write to us at info@marebalear.org

Calendar

Closing date of the competition: 15 September 2024 at 11.59 pm CEST.

MARE Popularis voting: 16 September to 31 October 2024.

Request and receipt of original files (RAW/JPG): October 2024.

Communication of finalists: October/November 2024.

Presentation and award ceremony: We will announce the date of the ceremony during the summer. The event can be followed on the website and on social media networks.

Exhibition of the winning and finalist photographs: The winning and finalist photographs will form part of a travelling exhibition that will tour the four Balearic Islands in 2025.

1.4 HOW MUCH DOES REGISTRATION COST?

Participation in MARE is FREE if you are under 18 years of age, a member of AFONIB, federated through FBDAS, or registered through associated diving centres.*

For all other participants, there is a REGISTRATION FEE of €10.

REGISTRATION FEE ACCORDING TO PARTICIPATION PROFILE		
YOUTH DIVISION (under 16)	GENERAL DIVISION (16 and over)	
Free	AMATEUR	EXPERT
	€10 general registration	
	Free for those under 18 years of age, AFONIB members, FBDAS members, and members of associated diving centres.	

Refund of the registration fee: The registration fee will not be refunded in case of non-completion of the registration or in case of disqualification. The registration fee will only be refunded if there is an error in the operation of the payment platform or an unresolved fault in the registration platform.

*** Associated diving centres:**

- **Mallorca:** Albatros Diving, Tramuntana Diving & Adventure, Skualo, ZOEA and Mar Balear.
- **Ibiza:** Scuba Diving Ibiza.
- **Formentera:** Vellmarí.
- **Menorca:** Binibeca Diving and Diving Menorca.

2. PARTICIPATION

2.1 GENERAL RULES AND SELECTION CRITERIA

1. **We look for photographs that tell stories.**
2. **The text** that describes the image must be a clear and informative message that calls attention and elicits empathy. Tell us the story from your heart. Look for a title and a description that invites us to take a closer look at the photo. Captivate us! Excite us! Amaze us!
3. We value **the image's** photographic quality, its capacity to transmit emotions and reflect the state of the sea, fidelity to reality, ethical practice, naturalistic interest, aesthetic beauty, technical difficulty, originality, creativity, and artistic quality. **Check out the winning photographs from previous competitions. We are looking for new images, not replicas.**
4. **Your photographs must represent reality as much as possible, except in the**

MARE Popularis category (People's Choice).

5. You can submit a **maximum of 20 images** in a single entry.
6. You may not submit the same or a very similar photograph in more than one category.
7. We accept images that have been awarded in other competitions or previously published, but not if they have been awarded or selected in previous MARE competitions.
8. In conservation photography, the process is very important – check your practices. MARE's code of ethics in image taking is based on the AFONIB Decalogue. We recommend you read it and apply its philosophy.
9. We do not accept photographs of domestic animals, algae, or marine seaweed in fish tanks or aquariums unless they come from fauna and flora recovery or reintroduction programmes. In this case, you must specify in the text the origin of the photographs.
10. In the MARE Animalia, MARE Botanica, MARE Denuntiare, and MARE Sapiens categories the photographs must have been taken within the Balearic Sea area (1,000 m isobaths around the Balearic archipelago), and in the MARE Nostrum and MARE Popularis categories, in the Mediterranean Sea.
11. We accept images taken during the last five years (i.e. any time after 31 October 2019).

2.2 PREPARE YOUR PICTURES

2.2.1 TECHNICAL REQUIREMENTS

- **FORMAT:** We accept photographs captured by digital cameras of which you keep the original RAW file (for the EXPERT participation profile) or JPG file (for the YOUTH DIVISION and AMATEUR profiles). You must keep the original image to be eligible for a prize. For photographs taken with a drone, you can submit DNG as a RAW format. No video captures or scanning of analogue files will be accepted (except in the MARE Popularis category).
- **SIZE:** You must submit your photos in JPG format with dimensions of 1920 pixels resolution on the largest side and 4 MB maximum size, preferably with Adobe RGB 1998 or a higher colour profile.
- **ADJUSTMENTS:** We want the participating images to represent reality. Therefore, we only accept moderate digital processing adjustments to the photographs. Moderate adjustments are those that correct the tone, light, and saturation but do not distort the reality of the image. We allow adjustments that correct sensor dust speckle, lens distortions, and optical aberrations. The MARE Popularis (People's Choice) category is exempt from this requirement.
- **CROPPING:** In terms of cropping or reframing limitations, cropping is limited to 50% of the original image. In addition, the high-quality version of the JPG submitted to the competition (not the submitted file but the original file that you save on your computer) must be at least 10 megapixels without interpolation. You must have the high-resolution file available for printing on paper if required by MARE.
- **COLOUR:** We accept colour and black-and-white photographs in all categories.
- **METADATA:** Photographs must contain their metadata or technical shooting parameters. These will be automatically extracted from the data embedded in the image file. It is not necessary to detail them, but they must be present in each photograph submitted. Do not delete the shooting parameters of the photograph

(Exif).

- **MULTIPLE EXPOSURES:** We accept photographs composed of multiple exposures in-camera, as long as they were taken on the same date. We will check the image metadata tags. For certain camera models, we may require the individual files that make up the multiple exposures.
- **OTHER:** Photographs must be free of frames, borders, watermarks, and captions.

2.2.2 ATTACHED INFORMATION

When registering your photos, you will be asked to provide the following information for each photograph you enter in the system:

- **TITLE:** Think about the title of your photograph in terms of the message you want to convey.
- **DESCRIPTIVE TEXT (value in marine conservation):** All your photographs must be accompanied by a text that relates your image to the importance of marine conservation. It should describe why your photo is important, why it is special (e.g. key species in the food chain, deteriorating landscape, interesting initiative, a story of empathy, the adaptation of a species, a curiosity). You can submit all kinds of texts: descriptive, scientific, philosophical, poetic. The minimum length is 100 characters, including spaces; the maximum is 1,300 characters.
- **SHOT PARAMETERS:** These parameters are automatically extracted from the Exif data of the JPG file submitted, but you can expand on the details of the technique or equipment used in this section.
- **LOCATION:** If your camera does not record the GPS position of the shot, don't worry. An interactive map will allow you to indicate where you took the photo.
- **HASTAGS:** Choose the hashtags that best represent your image. You'll find a list of different hashtags in each of the categories. Choose the ones that best fit your photo.
- **HONOR MENTIONS:** Indicate whether you want to submit your photo for either, both, or neither of the two honour mentions available in MARE 2024: «marine protected areas» and «water quality».

2.3 ANALYSIS OF DIGITAL PROCESSING

- We will verify the authenticity of all the images that enter the final phase of the competition by checking the original RAW/JPG file of the photograph. **If you do not submit the original file, your image will be disqualified.**
- We will reject images that do not meet the established format requirements. If we detect an evident intention on the part of the photographer to deceive the public, we reserve the right to disqualify all images submitted by them to the competition.
- After the process of analysis and verification, **MARE will decide which photographs are INAPPROPRIATE according to their criteria as professionals:**
 - Unallowed alteration of the original photograph, such as distortion of dimensions or perspective transformation.
 - Excessive global processing or zonal processing values.

- Diptychs or triptychs, no matter if they come from different original files or the same one.
 - Photomontage (panoramic, double exposures, etc.) made with editing programs from several different photographs.
 - Alteration or modification of pixels in specific areas of the image (deletions, cloning, or manipulations).
 - Unallowed RAW acquisition such as overlay or non-sequential multiple exposures.
- If, after some time, fraud or non-compliance with the rules by any participant, is demonstrated, MARE may withdraw the prize awarded and demand the reimbursement of the economic amount. In this case, MARE will update the list of winners, considering the scoring of the jury.

3. PRIZES

We will distribute 26 prizes, worth a total of €10,000, among the best images in the competition.

PRIZES PER CATEGORY	PARTICIPATION PROFILE				
	YOUTH DIVISION (under 16)	GENERAL DIVISION (16 and over)			
		AMATEUR (JPG)	EXPERT (RAW)		
			First prize	Finalists/ runners-up	
MARE Animalia	Aquatic Expedition KIT for each of the 5 best photographs	€300	€1,000	€200	€200
MARE Botanica		€300	€1,000	€200	€200
MARE Sapiens		€300	€1,000	€200	€200
MARE Denuntiare		€300	€1,000	€200	€200
MARE Nostrum		€300	€1,000	€200	€200
MARE Popularis	€1,000				
Water Quality Honourable Mention	3 mentions without financial award				
Marine Protected Areas Honourable Mention	3 mentions without financial award				

3.1 JURY AWARDS

The jury shall award the following prizes.

3.1.1 Participation profile YOUTH DIVISION

If you are under 16 years of age, you will participate in the YOUTH DIVISION. You may submit a maximum of 20 photographs to a single, generic, juried category. You can also participate in MARE Popularis, but only with 3 photographs, i.e., 17 in the main category and 3 in MARE Popularis.

From all the photographs submitted in the YOUTH DIVISION, the jury will choose five, which will be the winners. Each winner will receive an Aquatic Expedition Kit valued at €100.

To recognise the work and effort of this new generation of environmental ambassadors who use images as a tool to raise awareness, the jury will choose one photograph from those submitted by each YOUTH DIVISION participant for inclusion in a gallery on the competition website.

3.1.2 Participation profile GENERAL DIVISION

If you are 16 years old or over, you must register according to your level. There are two levels of participation, with the same five specific categories, judged by the jury:

AMATEUR level prizes:

- ✓ **MARE Animalia:** one prize of €300 for the winning photograph.
- ✓ **MARE Botanica:** one prize of €300 for the winning photograph.
- ✓ **MARE Sapiens:** one prize of €300 for the winning photograph.
- ✓ **MARE Denuntiare:** one prize of €300 for the winning photograph.
- ✓ **MARE Nostrum:** one prize of €300 for the winning photograph.

EXPERT level prizes:

- ✓ **MARE Animalia:** one prize of €1,000 for the winning photograph.
- ✓ **MARE Botanica:** one prize of €1,000 for the winning photograph.
- ✓ **MARE Sapiens:** one prize of €1,000 for the winning photograph.
- ✓ **MARE Denuntiare:** one prize of €1,000 for the winning photograph.
- ✓ **MARE Nostrum:** one prize of €1,000 for the winning photograph.

At the EXPERT level, two runners-up prizes of €200 will also be awarded to the two finalists in each category.

3.1.3 Category descriptions

In MARE, the sea is the protagonist. All the photographs submitted must relate to the marine or coastal environment of the Balearic Islands or the Mediterranean Sea and be accompanied by a conservation message/reflection. An image can only be submitted in one category.

In all categories, you can submit photographs taken out of the water, 50% in the water, or completely underwater.

Categories in which you can submit your photos in the GENERAL DIVISION:

1. **MARE Animalia:** Images that highlight the personality of marine animals in their environment and that reflect the great biodiversity that exists in the Balearic Sea. Special attention will be paid to photographs that show discoveries and novelties or

species of high interest (rarely seen, unique, endangered, threatened, etc.). Images of invasive species may not be submitted in this category.

2. **MARE Botanica:** Images that show the importance of a plant species (algae, plants, or any other photosynthetic organism) in its environment and the richness of colours under the sea and on the coasts. These include photographs that portray marine plant communities, specimens, or any of their parts, in their environment. Images of invasive species may not be submitted in this category.
3. **MARE Sapiens:** Images that show the positive relationship between the sea and people and between people and the sea. What trades are related to the sea? How do you relate to the sea and what does it bring to you? When you think of the sea, what do you imagine? This category invites you to show our social, economic, and cultural relationship with the sea, always in a positive way. For example, environmentally friendly fishing gear, the sea as a place interconnected with our culture and leisure, or a place to practise countless sports and experience new adventures.
4. **MARE Denuntiare:** Images that show the negative side of the relationship between humans and the sea (threats, dangers, environmental impacts, etc.). For example, loss of biodiversity, global warming, pollution, overfishing, polluted waters, or invasive species.
5. **MARE Nostrum:** The Mediterranean bathes 21 countries and is made up of many seas. In this category, we are looking for images of the Mediterranean Sea, taken both in and out of the water, which tell spectacular stories about its inhabitants, ecosystems, and ways of relating to it on any of its shores. This includes photographs that inspire us and bring us closer to the reality of the 2.5 million km² of salt water, both fertile and threatened. **Photographs taken within the Balearic Sea will not be accepted in this category.**

3.1.4 TAGS (#)

When you register you will be asked to tag your photo with some hashtags (#). Choose those #s from the drop-down menu that best suit the content of your photo.

This helps us to better classify the photos and better order the archive. Here are some of the examples you will find on the registration form:

MARE Animalia. #marineanimal #biodiversity #mammals #cetaceans #equinoderms #starfish #seaurchin #seacucumber #reptile #turtles #sponges #fish #sharks #ray #molluscs #cephalopods #seahare #nudibranchs #octopus #cuttlefish #crustaceans #crab #lobster #seabirds #cnidarians #corals #jellyfish

MARE Botanica. #plants #Phanerogamae #PosidoniaOceanica #CymodoceaNodosa #ZosteraNoltii #seaweed #CaulerpaProlifera #seagrassmeadows #marineforest #Cystoseira

MARE Sapiens. #fishing #tourism #sailing #relax #diving #sports #adventure #explore #CitizenResponsibility #SurveillanceBoats #OceanAmbassadors #EnvironmentalEducation #ReintroductionOfSpecies #ReleasingIntoTheSea #Rescues #CitizenScience #renewableenergy

MARE Denuntiare. #InvasiveSpecies #pollution #plastic #underwaternoise #climatechange #overfishing #mortality #underwaterdeserts #beaching #wastewaters

MARE Nostrum. #Mediterranean #landscapes #SeaOfSea #SeaAnimals #UnderwaterLands #MarineHabitats #seabed #coralreef #SeagrassMeadows #gorgonianforests #sandybottoms #RockyBottoms #Maerl #TransparentWaters

#TheBigBlue #OpenSea #TheSeaFromOutside #coastalHabitats #Saltflats #lagoon #cliffs
#Beaches #Sand #Rocks #Storms #Weather

If you submit any photographs for honourable mentions, you must also mark the corresponding tags in the drop-down section.

Balearic Sea Marine Protected Areas Honourable Mention: #MPA #Cabrera
#SerraTramuntana #BahíadePalma #MigjorndeMallorca #IsladelToro #IslasMalgrats
#LlevantdeMallorca #SaDragonera #AlbuferadesGrau #NortedeMenorca #IlladelAire
#ReservaBiosferaMenorca #SesSalineslbizayFormentera #EsTrenc-SalobrardeCampos
#FreusdelbizayFormentera #SaPuntaDeSaCreu, #Norestelbiza-Tagomago #SesBledes
#EsVedràEsVedranell

Water Quality Honourable Mention: #WaterQuality #Mediterranean #Balearic #blue
#summer #clear #clean #bath #oxygen #dump #wastewater #pollution #beach #calm
#silence #biodiversity #vulnerable #temperature #turbidity #colour #sailing #diving
#swimming #climatechange #enjoy #greenwater #brownwater #algae bloom #waves #calm
#seastorm #plastic #oversaturation #eutrophication #sewage #pipeline

3.2 HONOURABLE MENTIONS

	YOUTH DIVISION (under 16)	GENERAL DIVISION (16 and over)	
		AMATEUR (JPG)	EXPERT (RAW)
Water Quality Honourable Mention	3 mentions without financial award		
Marine Protected Areas Honourable Mention	3 mentions without financial award		

HONOURABLE MENTIONS reward images for the story and the message they convey.

Of course, quality and aesthetics are important, but in these mentions, we are looking for images that connect with the public, even if their photographic quality is not 100% excellent.

The jury will award six HONOURABLE MENTIONS divided into two themes.

- Honourable Mentions Water Quality:** To make the competition more dynamic, we have created an honourable mention, the concept of which will vary in each annual competition. This year we dedicate this distinction to a concept open to multiple interpretations, but incredibly important for our ecosystems and our society: the quality of our waters. Vulnerable, mistreated, and constantly increasing in temperature, which is true. But also clean, clear, turquoise waters, full of life, emotions, and experiences. Salty water is what defines the marine environment, its main sign of identity. What do you think of when you imagine the waters of the Mediterranean Sea? What does the concept of water quality suggest to you? Show us your vision.
- Honourable Mentions Marine Protected Areas.** These are awarded to the photographs that show 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 objectives of these areas that feed off each other); and the activities, events, and actions that are carried out in them. To participate in this mention, submit a photograph with the hashtag #MPA and the location of the MPA where you took the photo.

As a participant, and regardless of your age or level, **you are eligible to win an HONOURABLE MENTION if you indicate your wish to apply for this distinction when you register your photo on the entry form.**

All photographs submitted to the competition, except those submitted to MARE Popularis, are eligible for an HONOURABLE MENTION.

The HONOURABLE MENTIONS are accompanied by a certificate or diploma rather than a financial award.

The winning and finalist images in the six categories cannot be awarded an HONOURABLE MENTION. If a photograph is proposed by the jury for several prizes, the one with the highest monetary prize will prevail.

3.3 MARE POPULARIS (PEOPLE'S CHOICE)

After last year's success, this year we want, again, to have a prize, the winner of which will not be decided by the official MARE jury but will be awarded to the photograph which receives the most votes from the public.

WHAT KIND OF PHOTOS CAN I SUBMIT?

In MARE Popularis, you can submit more artistic marine photographs: more abstract photos, with more digital retouching; pictures created using artificial intelligence; double exposures; analogical photos; diptychs; photomontages; video captures; funny photographs; or simply marine photographs that do not fit into the other five categories. Photographs must have been taken within the marine environment of the Mediterranean Sea.

To be eligible for the MARE Popularis award, you must attach a short text in which you tell us how you took the photo (whether it is a single shot, a photomontage, what digital editing you have done, etc.). This is in addition to all the information requested in the other categories.

MARE is a photography competition, so paintings, illustrations, sculptures, videos, etc., are not accepted. However, photographic interventions, including collages and montages, both digital and analogue, will be accepted, as long as the result is a high-quality digital file.

WHAT IS THE SELECTION PROCESS FOR THE WINNING PHOTOGRAPH?

If you wish to be eligible for this prize, submit a maximum of three photographs in the MARE Popularis category. You cannot submit these photos to any of the other five categories.

We will award a single prize of €1,000 to the photograph that receives the most votes in an online, public vote on our website. Once the prize has been awarded, we will create a section on the MARE website to show the 20 photographs with the highest number of votes.

MARE may disqualify those photographs that it considers inappropriate, offensive, sexual, or violent. In the event of a tie in the popular vote, it will be up to the competition organisers to decide the final result.

The online voting period will begin on Monday, 16th September 2024 and will end on Thursday, 31st October 2024, coinciding with the jury's decision period.

WHAT RULES MUST I COMPLY WITH?

This award is not governed by the rules of the other categories. Any person, of any age, participation profile, and level, may enter.

All photographs must be submitted in JPG format, with 1920 pixels on the largest side and 4 MB in weight, without watermarks, borders, or captions.

Everything specified in the section LEGAL ASPECTS also applies in this category. We will not accept photomontages using material that the participant does not own. If the photograph shows people who can be identified, remember that YOU NEED THEIR WRITTEN CONSENT.

3.4 VISIBILITY OF PRIZES AND HONOURABLE MENTIONS

All winning photographs, honourable mentions, and finalists may be part of the following:

- ✓ An online exhibition on the MARE website, through the creation of a high-quality visual resource (digital book, gallery, or other).
- ✓ A travelling exhibition that will tour the Balearic Islands in 2025.

The participants whose works are to be exhibited, both on the website and in the travelling exhibition, will not be entitled to any financial compensation in the form of royalties. In the travelling exhibition and on the competition website, we will indicate the name of the photographer. We will also issue, on request, a certificate certifying that their work has been selected for the exhibition.

4. JURY

The jury will select the winning images in all categories, except for MARE Popularis.

The jury comprises relevant people from the world of photography, marine conservation, and the scientific or popular science fields, with experience in selecting those works that deserve special recognition based on technical excellence, originality, exceptionality, creativity, composition, and impact.

In this, the 5th annual competition, the jury comprises the following people:

- Pep Bonet, photographer.
- Debora Morrison, president of the Palma Aquarium Foundation.
- Rafael Fernández Caballero, photographer

You can consult their biography on the competition website.

The jury's decision on ALL questions is final; no claims or appeals will be accepted.

The jury reserves the right to move photographs from one category to another or to recommend any photograph for an honourable mention where it considers it applicable or appropriate.

In case of necessity, illness, or force majeure, members of the jury may be replaced.

If no entries are received for a particular category, prizes may be declared void.

5. LEGAL ISSUES

5.1 PRICE TAXATION

Prizes will be subject to personal income tax in accordance with current tax legislation. The withholding that will be applied to prizes of more than €350 is 19%, while prizes equal to or less than €350 are tax exempt.

If MARE Popularis is won by a minor, both the prize and the withholding tax will be in their name. The parents or legal guardians must include the value of the prize and the amount of the withholding on their tax return.

If your tax domicile is outside Spain, bear in mind that, in addition to the tax applied by the Spanish state, you may also have to declare the prize in your country.

5.2 IMAGE RIGHTS

As the photographer, you will retain the copyright of all your images regardless of MARE's use of the photographs.

Your name will be cited in any publication (analogue or digital) produced by this competition.

As a participant, you declare that you are the author of each work submitted to the competition and that you own all the rights to them.

If you submit a photograph in which recognisable people appear, you must have the required authorisation; if they are a minor, you must have the authorisation of their parent or guardian. This authorisation must be presented at the request of MARE. Failure to provide such documentation may be grounds for disqualification. MARE will not be responsible for possible claims against the authors.

MARE's mission is to create a meeting point for marine photography in the Balearic Islands and the Mediterranean Sea and to show it to the public, accompanied by conservationist messages, to raise awareness of the richness and beauty of our seas. For this reason, year after year, MARE is becoming a tool to access quality images for the general public and also for some environmental organisations that work in our environment.

When submitting your photographs, we offer you the possibility to transfer or loan the reproduction rights to MARE for the following purposes:

- **Loan for MARE:** Use of the image is granted solely for the promotion and broadcast of the MARE competition.
- **Loan for the conservation of the Balearic Sea:** Use of the image can be shared for marine conservation purposes with MARE's collaborating entities. Under no circumstances will these images be used for profit.

5.3 NON-EXCLUSIVE CESSION OF USE OF THE AWARDED IMAGES FOR EXHIBITION AND

PUBLICATIONS BY MARE AND MARILLES FOUNDATION

MARE reserves the right to reproduce the awarded images to share the results of the competition and promote it. They may also be used to illustrate reports and training, or educational projects organised by Marilles Foundation.

The photographs will always be accompanied by the authorship credit (e.g. María Borrell/MARE 2024), and the author cedes the reproduction rights to MARE for this purpose. Under no circumstances will these images be used for financial gain or commercial purposes.

5.4 RESPONSIBILITIES AND DATA PROTECTION

The organisers are exempt from any liability that may arise from the improper and illicit use of the works exhibited by third parties.

The organisers may resolve any situation not foreseen in the rules.

Although we have asked you to enter your email address, we will never share it with anyone outside MARE. We will treat all your personal data with the utmost confidentiality in accordance with the provisions of the General Data Protection Regulation (EU) 2019/679 of the European Parliament of the Council of 27 April 2016 and Organic Law 3/2018 of 5 December on the Protection of Personal Data and the guarantee of digital rights for the purpose of managing your application to participate in this competition.

The data provided will be kept for as long as the contractual relationship is maintained or for the years necessary to comply with legal obligations. The data will not be passed on to third parties except in cases where there is a legal obligation or where you have expressly given your consent.

As a participant, you can contact MARE at any time to exercise your rights of access, rectification, limitation of processing, portability, opposition to processing, and deletion of your data by writing to info@marebalear.org, attaching a copy of your ID in both cases, as well as the right to file a complaint with the Control Authority (aepd.es).

For our part, we will only contact you concerning MARE.

Participation in this competition implies full acceptance of each one of these rules, of the unappealable decision of the jury, and of the legal terms published in the participant registration form. The organisers may resolve any case not foreseen in the rules.