

# STUDY AND CONSERVATION OF SPERM WHALES IN THE CANARY ISLANDS

PARTICIPATE IN THE SECAC CITIZEN SCIENCE PROGRAM  
ON THE ISLAND OF LANZAROTE

Research campaign plans for May and June 2020

## INFORMATION DOCUMENT



## PROYECTO CACHALOTES DE CANARIAS CANARY ISLANDS SPERM WHALE PROJECT



## THE CANARY ISLANDS SPERM WHALE PROJECT

**The Sperm whale** (*Physeter macrocephalus*) is listed as vulnerable in the National Catalog of Threatened Species (RD139 / 2011), in the Regional Catalog of the Canary Islands (L.7L / PPL-001 of 2009) and **is listed as "vulnerable"** by the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN). In the Canary Islands, the main threat to sperm whales is collision with fast ferries. The Canary Islands has one of the highest maritime traffic densities on the planet. Every year several cetacean strandings occur that show evidence of injuries caused by fast ferry collisions.

Between 2000 and 2018, 81 sperm whales were stranded in the Canary Islands. In 44 of these cases, the cause of death was attributable to collisions with vessels. These deaths have a significant impact on the populations of the species in the archipelago because the collision mortality rate exceeds the natural reproduction rate. Furthermore, this is not only a conservation problem in the Canary archipelago but a threat to species across the Macaronesian subregion. Due to the absence of studies there is not much information on the biology and ecology of the sperm whales in this area.

Collision mortality could be reduced thanks to the approval of mitigation measures based in scientific studies. Nautical census with **Passive Acoustic Monitoring (PAM)** and **Photo-identification technics** are used in the SECAC project to fill the scientific void concerning this species in the archipelago and understand the structure of the population, ecology, movements and use of the habitat in order to create a map on the possible risk of collision.

## COME WITH US TO THE SEA

The SECAC carries out a Citizen Science project called "**Come with Us to the Sea**" where up to 7 people can participate in our research campaigns embarking on a 15-meter sailboat and contributing to scientific research in the "**Canary Islands Sperm Whale Project**".

## 3-DAY EXPEDITION DATES FOR MAY AND JUNE 2021

Campaigns	Dates	Seats
Lanzarote 1	21,22,23 May 2021	7
Lanzarote 2	11,12,13 June 2021	7

## FINANCIAL DONATION

The required donations for 3-Day Expedition is 400. This contribution will be used entirely to help defray the costs of the project (maintenance of the boat, fuel, berthing, research material, etc.). The donation includes food and accommodation on board. This financial contribution is a donation and not an economic consideration. We do not lead tours; but rather conduct scientific expeditions for research and conservation. The contribution does not include travel to and from the home port or other expenses. The SECAC recognizes each participant as a sponsor of the project. Also, each participant will be given a certificate of participation.

The campaigns will be carried out with a minimum number of 4 participants. In the event that the campaign is suspended due to not reaching the minimum number of people required, the donation will be fully refunded or used for another campaign. In the event that the participant cannot attend the campaign, the donation will not be refunded. The donation will be used for a future expedition only if the participant notices the SECAC with a minimum of 1 month of advance of the data of the expedition.

## LOCATION OF THE ACTIVITY

### HOME PORT

This study is based on the island of Lanzarote. The base port for this research is the port of **Puerto Calero**.

A part of SECAC project is developed in the Marine Protected Area (MPA) Place of Community Importance (SCI) of the European Union's Natura 2000 Network: "**Eastern and Southern Marine Space of Lanzarote-Fuerteventura**" (ESZZ15002), declared for its rich marine biodiversity, the presence of 28 species of cetaceans, turtles, seabirds and the existence of seamounts.

## THE OUTING TO SEA

**The program may change due to weather conditions.** The sailing will be done with the sailboat El Leño (a 15 m length). The duration is approximate and will depend on the state of the sea and the work to be done.





## WHAT TO BRING?

Space on the boat is limited; so please bring a small bag, and just the most basic items:

1. **Documentation** (do not forget your ID or passport and original or copy of your health insurance card)
2. **Sleeping bag** (very important for sleeping on board) and **a towel**
3. **Cap, sunglasses, and sunscreen 50** (very important)
4. **Waterproof warm clothing**, windproof jacket (on some trips it can be cold)
5. Comfortable, non-slip footwear
5. Dive fins and goggles (optional)
7. Camera, video, binoculars (optional)

## RULES OF COHABITATION ON BOARD

The language to be spoken on board is **Spanish** and **English**. There are a few basic rules that will facilitate coexistence on board during campaigns in a reduced space – as well as ensuring the safety of all, the performance of work and maintenance of the boat. Among them we highlight:

1. Always follow scrupulously the directions given by the project manager and the boat's skipper
3. Always keep your life jacket on and respect the safety measures indicated
5. It is recommended to take something to avoid dizziness (e.g., biodramina type with caffeine) in advance of departure if you do not have previous sailing experience
6. Hydrate yourself by drinking water; protect yourself from the sun by regularly applying cream; and cover your head with a hat or cap
7. No smoking on board
8. No alcoholic beverages or narcotic substances are allowed
9. Absolutely nothing is allowed to be thrown into the sea
10. Maintain the order of the boat. Each person is responsible for their belongings.
11. Be kind and respectful to our companions
12. Bathing in open ocean is not allowed
13. It is forbidden to take pictures or video of the project (including cetaceans, working procedures and people on board) without first asking and receiving permission from the project director



## APPLY NOW !

To participate with us you must follow these steps:

1. Read this information document carefully, fill in and sign the forms: participation request and acceptance of conditions and signature (found at the end of this document). Scan and send all forms to SECAC at the following address: [secaclanzarote@gmail.com](mailto:secaclanzarote@gmail.com)

2. We will contact you to confirm the provisional participation.

5. For the **3-Day Expedition**, you must transfer **400€** to the SECAC account (see box below) indicating your first and last name, ID card or passport and, and identify the transfer as: "Donation for the SECAC science project" and (date on which you want to participate).

**Santander Bank**

**ES54 0049 0255 71 2512196362**

## CONTACT US:

For any consultation contact with us you can call to the telephone:

**+34 684303503.**

**Francesca Fusar Poli**

**Canary Islands Sperm Whale Project**

Society for the Study of Cetaceans in the Canary Islands (SECAC). CODE:G-38343497.  
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**[www.cetaceos.org](http://www.cetaceos.org) [secaclanzarote@gmail.com](mailto:secaclanzarote@gmail.com)**



## Participation Application Form (You can fill in the form with Adobe Acrobat Reader or request it in Word format)

Nombre/ <b>First name</b>	
Apellidos/ <b>Last name</b>	
Dirección/ <b>Address</b>	
País/ <b>Country</b>	
Teléfono/ <b>Phone</b>	
Email	
Nacimiento/ <b>Date of birth</b> (dd/mm/yyyy)	
Nacionalidad/ <b>Nationality</b>	
Sexo/ <b>Gender</b>	
Profesión/ <b>Profession</b>	
Días elegidos/ <b>Selected days</b>	
Intolerancia alimentaria / <b>Alimentary intolerance</b>	

### ACCEPTANCE OF CONDITIONS AND SIGNATURE

- By submitting the participation application form, I certify that all the information provided here is true and complete.
- I certify that I am over eighteen (18) years old, that I am fully competent and that I have physical abilities and a state of health that allows me to embark.
- I understand that due to the nature of research campaigns, it is essential that high levels of safety, discipline and understanding are established and maintained on board.
- I will be held accountable for my own actions and for any damage or loss that these may cause.



- I understand that SECAC is the owner of all the products of the work developed as well as the research data collected in this research
- I understand that it is prohibited to take photographs or videos on board, unless the Project Director previously authorizes it
- I will be responsible for my travel expenses, transportation on the island, and any other expenses incurred during the research stay.
- I have carefully read the Information document of the participation program, the rules and regulations of SECAC, and I agree to abide by them scrupulously.

Name and Surname	
Signature (scanned) and Date (dd/mm/yyyy)	