



Society for the Study of Cetaceans in the Canary Archipelago (SECAC)
Canary Islands Cetacean Research Centre (CICC)
Cetacean Biological Reference Collection of Macaronesia (CBRCM)

RESERACHER FOR ONE DAY

CETACEAN RESEARCH IN THE CANARY ISLANDS



Lanzarote, Canary Islands, Spain

RESEARCH

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Who are we?



The **Society for the Study of the Cetaceans in the Canary Archipelago (SECAC)** is a scientific NGO founded in 1993 (Canary Islands Association registration number G1/S1/8184-93/L). The aims of this organisation are to promote **research, conservation, and the dissemination of cetaceans in the Canary Islands**. SECAC manages the Canary Islands Cetacean Research Centre (CICC), located in Arrecife, Lanzarote Island. SECAC's scientific research activities focus on monitoring the structure and dynamics of cetacean communities in the Canary Islands, as well as obtaining biological information from stranded cetaceans. This work is behind the development of the **Biological Reference Collection of Cetaceans of Macaronesia (CBRCM)**, which the organisation oversees. SECAC was co-founder of the Spanish Cetacean Society (SEC) in 1999, and the Cetacean Museum of the Canary Islands (MCC) between 2005 and 2011. SECAC has conducted 115,000 km of marine surveys in the Canary Islands, made more than 5,000 sightings in dedicated cetacean surveys and participated in the study of more than 1,000 whales and dolphins stranded in the islands. SECAC actively collaborates with other national and international scientists and research centres. If you want to know more about SECAC visit our website: www.cetaceos.org or our social networks on Facebook (SECAC) and Instagram.

What does the program offer?



SECAC organizes a **one-day sea outing** for those interested in closely studying cetaceans for conservation purposes. Participants will board a **sailing boat from 9:00 to 16:00**, where they will work alongside our researchers in data collection and analysis, as part of the **CETOC program**. This is a unique opportunity to gain hands-on experience working with marine mammal experts in the exceptional environment of Lanzarote and Fuerteventura waters, which are part of the EU Natura 2000 protected marine area: "LIC Marine Space of Eastern and Southern Lanzarote-Fuerteventura." During the activity, **Spanish and English** will be spoken, depending on the working group.



The waters of the Canary Islands are an ideal laboratory for studying cetaceans, with 31 species of cetaceans present.

What does the program include?



The "Researcher for a day" activity offered by SECAC provides participants an introductory training on research techniques and the cetacean species that inhabit these waters. Aboard a sailing boat, participants will learn to use techniques such as photo-identification and hydrophone recording to capture cetacean vocalizations.

This hands-on program offers direct experience in real-time data collection, guided by expert researchers.

Outings to the sea are structured for individuals with or without prior knowledge.

SECAC is currently conducting a long-term study of the cetacean population in the waters of Eastern and Southern Lanzarote-Fuerteventura as part of the **CETOC program**. The area is home to **31 cetacean species**, including deep-diving species such as pilot whales, the three species of sperm whales (sperm whale, dwarf sperm whale, and pygmy sperm whale), and beaked whales. Among these, at least four species—the Risso's dolphin (*Grampus griseus*), Cuvier's beaked whale (*Ziphius cavirostris*), Blainville's beaked whale (*Mesoplodon densirostris*), and possibly Gervais's beaked whale (*Mesoplodon europaeus*)—have resident populations that SECAC has been studying for over a decade. This information is essential for the effective management of these species and their habitat.

The methodology includes conducting marine surveys to understand distribution, abundance, habitat use, movements, social structure, and conservation status. Surveys will be carried out aboard a **12-meter sailing boat**. Due to the nature of SECAC's research and the cryptic nature of some of the species we study, **outings to the sea will only be conducted on days with excellent sea conditions** (Beaufort scale 0-1).



Why is it a unique experience?

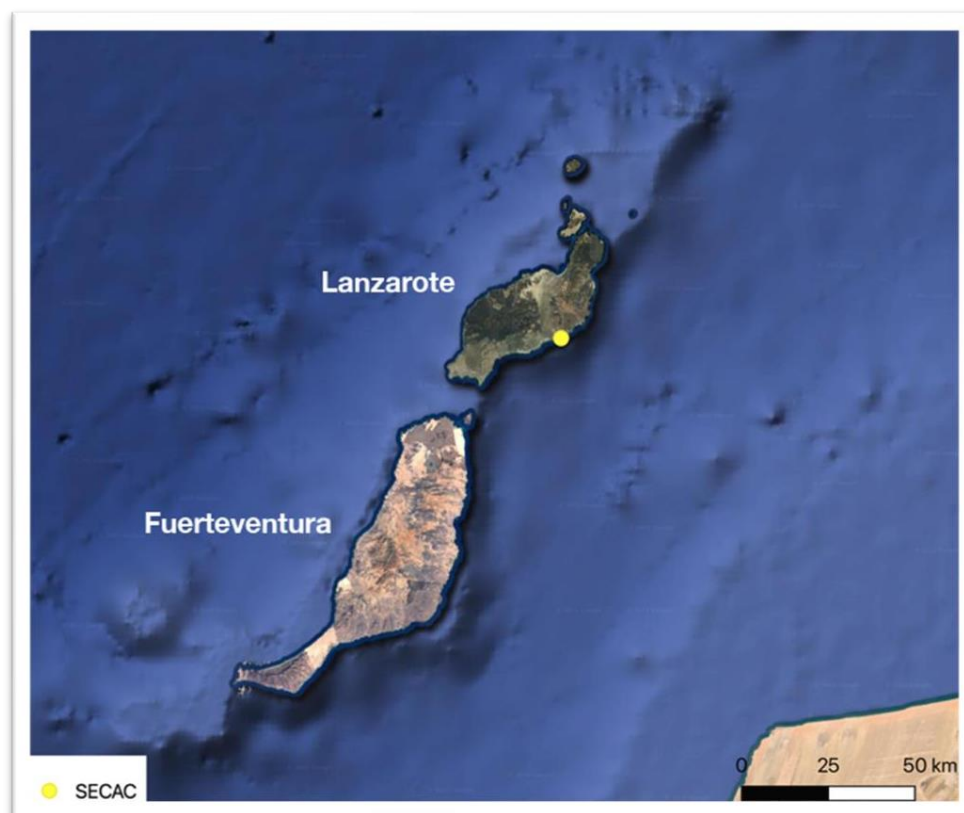


SECAC has been working with cetaceans since 1993, covering multiple levels of scientific research, including stranding networks, photo-identification, bioacoustics, and scientific sea expeditions.

This experience is unique because it offers the opportunity to work alongside **Vidal Martín, an internationally recognized cetacean expert**. Vidal is a pioneer in cetacean study in the Canary Islands, with over **30 years of experience and an extensive record of scientific achievements**. He has led global research projects, authored and co-authored articles in prestigious journals such as *Nature* and *Scientific Reports*, and participated in the description of a new cetacean species, the Ramari's beaked whale (*Mesoplodon eueu*). Vidal Martín received awards such as the Jameo de Oro for sustainability and the César Manrique for Environment. Additionally, Vidal's expertise includes the creation of one of the most important cetacean biological collections in Macaronesia.

About Lanzarote

Lanzarote is one of the eight Canary Islands. It has an area of 845.94 km making it the fourth-largest island in the archipelago. It's a unique island with a volcanic origin and a beautiful landscape. The last historical eruption was in Timanfaya (in the south of the island) during a period between 1730 and 1736, giving rise to one of the largest lava fields in the world in terms of extension. The island is approximately 15 million years old and, due to its special characteristics, was classified by UNESCO "Geopark of Lanzarote and Chinijo Archipelago" (www.geoparquelanzarote.org). The landscape of this enclave is one of the most beautiful in the Canary Islands. Lanzarote was declared a Biosphere Reserve by UNESCO 25 years ago for its exceptional natural values and the unique relationship between its inhabitants and nature (www.lanzarotebiosfera.org). Its waters are protected by the European Union's Natura 2000 Network (SCIs, SPAs and SACs). The Marine Protected Area (MPA) is a Site of Community Importance (LIC): "Espacio Marino del Oriente y Sur de Lanzarote- Fuerteventura" (ESZZ15002) for its rich marine biodiversity and the presence of cetaceans, marine turtles, and seabirds. Lanzarote is an ideal island for those who enjoy nature and tranquillity, spectacular landscapes, hiking, diving, snorkelling and water activities. The island also offers a wide range of leisure and cultural activities.



What are the dates and base port?

The home port is **Puerto del Carmen, Lanzarote**. Contact us to discover the available dates in 2026. Departure will be at 9:00 AM, and return is around 4:00 PM.

What is the financial contribution?

The financial contribution is €120 (including taxes). Participants are required to collaborate due to the scientific nature of the work.

How can I participate?

Send an email to secaclanzarote@gmail.com. Please include your full name, ID number, and the selected date. We will contact you within a maximum of 7 working days.

Need assistance?

CONTACT

We are at your complete disposal to address any questions you may have.

Email: secaclanzarote@gmail.com

Phone: +34 684303503 (Francesca).