Our aims

For the Spanish Mediterranean to be declared by law as an AREA FREE FROM EXPLORATION, RESEARCH AND EXPLOITATION FOR HYDROCARBONS.

In the meantime, we request an URGENT MORATORIUM on the submission and processing of new licences for hydrocarbon exploration and oil drilling projects.

The definitive suspension of all new exploration and exploitation of hydrocarbons currently being processed in the Spanish Mediterranean.

Declare the CETACEAN MIGRATION CORRIDOR through the Levantine/ Balearic marine area as a SPECIALLY PROTECTED AREA OF MEDITERRANEAN IMPORTANCE (SPAMAR) by 2016, under the Barcelona Convention, and immediately implement in the area a preventive and protection regime to reduce undersea noise pollution.

Forment the implementation of a SUSTAINABLE NAVAR ANTONIO - based on energy saving and efficiency and renewable energies.

Join Alianza Mar Blava

WE NEED YOU ON OUR SIDE TO STOP OIL PROSPECTING PROJECTS AND TO ACHIEVE DEFINITIVE LEGAL PROTECTION FOR THE MEDITERRANEAN IN THE WAKE OF THESE THREATS.

SUPPORT AND DISSEMINATE OUR ACTIVITIES. THANKS!

- Get informed, visit our website: www.alianzamarblava.org
- Follow us on the social networks: @AlianzaMarBlava
- Make a donation: We need financial help to continue with our technical and legal work. Alianza Mar Blava account at Caixa Pollença: 2056 0015 68 4102006162
- Adopt a metre of sea: adopta1metrodemar.alianzamarblava.org

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Alianza Mar Blava

We defend the environmental richness of the Mediterranean Sea and its coasts. We seek to end the threat that prospecting for oil poses on our economy and our environment and progress towards sustainability in our energy system.

We are a platform made up of over one hundred members from all social sectors.

- PUBLIC ADMINISTRATIONS: Balearic Islands Government, Island Councils of Formentera, Ibiza, Menorca and Mallorca, various city and town councils on the islands and Barcelona City Council.
- PRIVATE SECTOR: Entities from different economic sectors like tourism, fishing and nautical.
- CIVIL SOCIETY: Ecologist and social organisations, unions and other public and private entities.

WE ARE SUPPORTED BY DIVERSE INTERNATIONAL CONSERVATION AND ENVIRONMENT ORGANISATIONS.

THE ALIANCE IS A TOOL FOR THE WHOLE OF SOCIETY. WE ENCOURAGE ANY ORGANISATION WISHING TO JOIN THIS INITIATIVE TO GET INVOLVED IN THE DEFENCE OF THE ENVIRONMENT AND FOR A NEW ENERGY MODEL.

For an OIL FREE Mediterranean
Why we say NO to new hydrocarbon prospecting

The Mediterranean sea possesses great ecological value and, as a consequence, important economic interests like quality tourism and fishing which depend on a healthy sea. Its level of protection is wholly inadequate. Only covering 0.8% of the world's marine surface, the Mediterranean is home to between 4% and 18% of all known marine species, many of them endemic. Currently, less than 1% of the Mediterranean sea is protected.

An accident on an offshore oil rig or during the transport of hydrocarbons would have a devastating effect on the Mediterranean’s rich ecosystems and on local economies. Science has demonstrated that, if we wish to avoid the effects of climate change on a grand scale, we should stop burning a large part of the fossil fuel reserves available now. For this reason, what sense does it make to continue searching for new hydrocarbon deposits? NONE.

We urgently need to leave the fossil fuel era behind and rapidly advance towards the transition to a new efficient, smart and 100% renewable energy model.

Achievements

Thanks to the social and institutional pressure generated through Alianza Mar Blava and other collectives, we can celebrate the achievement of important accomplishments:

- In April 2015, the oil and gas exploration company Cairn Energy was obliged to withdraw its four exploration permits, relinquishing its licences to search for hydrocarbons in the Gulf of Valencia.
- In July 2016, thanks to the technical and legal efforts by Alianza Mar Blava, the Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Environment definitively shelved the exploration project proposed by services Petroliers Schlumberger in the Gulf of Lion.
- In August 2016, the MedSalt-2 project in waters around Mallorca, Ibiza and Formentera had its Simplified Environmental Impact Declaration denied, forcing the project to undertake an Ordinary Environmental Impact Assessment, should the promoter decide to continue with the operation.
- At the end 2015, we succeeded in persuading the Spanish Government to start the process for the declaration of a Cetacean Migration Corridor through the Levantine/Balearic marine area as a Specially Protected area of Mediterranean importance (SPAMI) under the Barcelona Convention.
- Official declarations by the main Balearic Island institutions, various regional governments and a Non-Legislative Motion in the Congress urge the Spanish Government to declare by law the Spanish Mediterranean free from hydrocarbon prospecting.

Documentation

Search for bathymetric, seismic, gravimetric, sounding and geological information, satellite data, etc.

Acoustic surveys (or seismic acquisition)

To map the geological formations under the seabed, sound waves are continuously emitted from a surface vessel, between 215-265 decibels and frequencies of 10-250 hertz, which can penetrate up to 7,000 metres below the seabed. The noise given off is between 10,000 and 100,000 times greater than a jet aircraft engine. The pulses of compressed air used cause irreversible damage or even death to cetaceans and marine turtles. On top of that, fish catches are reduced.

Exploratory drilling

Expeditions are drilled to verify whether there exist hydrocarbons on a given area. This is the most costly and dangerous stage due to the probability of spills. The situation on BP’s Deepwater Horizon rig in the Gulf of Mexico occurred at this stage. Significant amounts of hydrocarbons are dispersed in the exploratory drilling, production gets under way.

Commercial exploitation

The threat of oil spills would be constant in the area, with potentially catastrophic consequences for the environment, fishing and tourism. Any inshore exploitation would worsen the problem of climate change, resulting in, among other things, greater coastal erosion and rising seal levels.

Hydrocarbon exploration projects that have been shelved.

Cetacean Migration Corridor (SPAMI)

Current permits for hydrocarbon exploitation.

Hydrocarbon exploration projects being processed.

 Hydrocarbon exploration projects that have been shelved.

Cetacean Migration Corridor (SPAMI)

For more detailed information about the projects:

http://alianzamarblava.org/es/petroleo/situacion-actual/