

Resolution 23. Conservation and recovery of the Mediterranean monk seal (*Monachus monachus*)



Year	Congress
2008	 <p>IUCN World Conservation Congress Barcelona 2008</p>
Sponsoring entity	Co-sponsoring entities
 <p>Govern de les Illes Balears Conselleria de Medi Ambient, Agricultura i Pesca</p>	<p>MarViva, Terra Nostra Association, Centre for Environmental Law and Natural Resources, Department of the Environment, Peace and Security of the University for Peace, Department of the Environment and Housing of the Government of Catalonia</p>
Petition	
<p>Proposes that all IUCN members in Mediterranean countries maintain and increase their efforts to help</p>	

Con el apoyo:



Recommendations on the status of Spain's natural heritage Resolution & Recommendation sheets

the recovery of the species. It calls on the Western Mediterranean States, in collaboration with other countries that host populations in better condition, to prepare and implement a strategy that will make it possible for recently extinct populations to recover, as a key initiative so that, in the future, the flow between the Atlantic and Aegean populations can be re-established. Requests the Director General to: encourage and facilitate collaborative projects in favour of the monk seal among the Union's Mediterranean members with the assistance of the IUCN Centre for Mediterranean Cooperation and the SSC Pinniped Specialist Group; and communicate this decision to all entities mentioned in this motion.

State	Fulfilment in Spain
Active	In process

Summary of actions carried out with effect in Spain

MITECO [developed a strategy to reintroduce the species to Fuerteventura in early 2019](#), but the plan is [currently stalled](#) due to complaints from artisanal fishermen, who fear possible economic losses if the species is finally re-introduced.

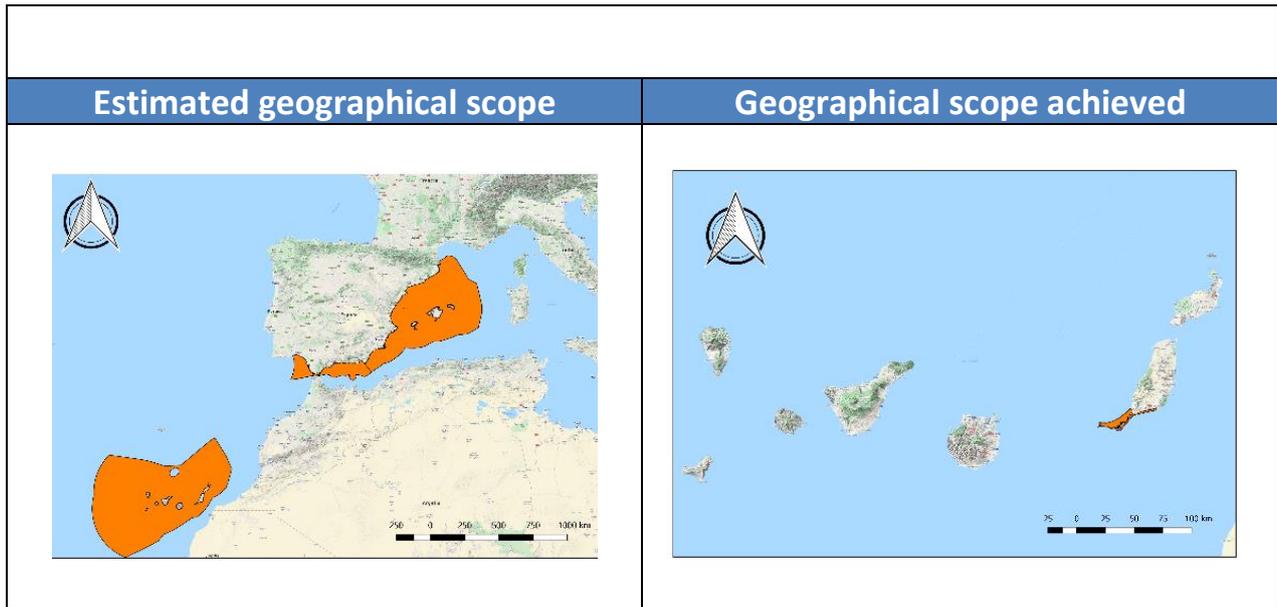
Legislation:

[BOE-A-2018-5454](#): Royal Decree 190/2018, of 6 April, which declares the Site of Community Importance as a Special Conservation Area LIC ES6300001 Islas Chafarinas in the Mediterranean biogeographical region of the Natura 2000 Network, extends and makes the Special Protection Area for Birds of the same name coincide with the previous area, and approves the corresponding conservation measures for the joint area. With this new SCI, the aim is to achieve, in reference to the monk seal, the following

- *"Conservation and environmental-fauna improvement: D.4.1 Habitats will be protected by maintaining the maximum degree of naturalness and tranquillity in the shelters, caves, beaches and resting areas of Congress and King's Palace in order to favour the establishment of the monk seal.*
- *Regulations: N.4.3 Fishing activity shall be prohibited within a perimeter of at least 100 metres in order to favour the emergence of the monk seal. Only angling from the coast will be permitted in the strip from Titan Wharf and the broken dike on Elizabeth II, considering this to be in a west-east direction.*
- *Description of the communities: The Chafarinas Islands constitute one of the few potentially viable habitats for the recolonisation of the Mediterranean monk seal, given the sporadic presence of individuals of this species in the archipelago until relatively recent years and the good conservation of the marine environment in general.*
- *Mammals: The existence of semi-submerged coastal caves, quiet beaches and abundant fish and cephalopod populations, allows these islands to be the last refuge of the monk seal or sea lion (Monachus monachus) in Spanish territory. Since 2004, no monk seals have been observed in Chafarinas".*

Con el apoyo:





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